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### A Study of Fort Hays Kansas State College Enrollments

Lionel D. Howell

*Fort Hays Kansas State College*

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A STUDY OF FORT HAYS KANSAS  
STATE COLLEGE ENROLIMENTS

being

A thesis presented to the Graduate Faculty  
of the Fort Hays Kansas State College in  
partial fulfillment of the requirements for  
the Degree of Master of Science

by

Lionel D. Howell, B. S.

Fort Hays Kansas State College

Date

July 27, 1956

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
Purpose of Study . . . . .	2
Brief History of Fort Hays Kansas State College . . . . .	3
Selection of Area . . . . .	5
Organization of Study . . . . .	5
II. GENERAL BACKGROUND OF AREA . . . . .	7
Economic Activity of Kansas . . . . .	7
Natural Regions Within Area . . . . .	13
Northern High Plains . . . . .	13
High Plains Grazing . . . . .	17
Southwestern High Plains . . . . .	19
Western Corn Belt . . . . .	22
Northern Low Plains . . . . .	25
Eroded Plains . . . . .	29
III. POPULATION MOVEMENTS OF THE AREA . . . . .	33
Population Growth in the United States and Kansas . . . . .	33
Comparison of Births and Deaths for the United States and Kansas . . . . .	35
Population Growth in Kansas and 51-County Area . . . . .	39
Comparison of Births and Deaths for Kansas and the 51-County Area . . . . .	42

## CHAPTER

## PAGE

Population Growth in Natural Regions . . . . .	44
Northern High Plains . . . . .	44
High Plains Grazing . . . . .	45
Southwestern High Plains . . . . .	45
Western Corn Belt . . . . .	49
Northern Low Plains . . . . .	49
Eroded Plains . . . . .	51
Summary . . . . .	51
IV. ENROLLMENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION . . . . .	55
United States and Kansas Enrollments . . . . .	55
Students Enrolled for the First Time in	
any College in the United States . . . . .	58
Kansas Enrollments in Higher Education . . . . .	58
Students Enrolled for the First Time in	
any College in Kansas . . . . .	59
Fall Enrollments . . . . .	59
Comparison of Kansas Enrollments with 18-24	
Year Old Age Group . . . . .	61
51-County Area 18-24 Age Group . . . . .	64
Fort Hays Kansas State College and 18-24	
Age Group . . . . .	66
Comparison of Enrollments of Fort Hays Kansas	
State College With Regional Population . . . . .	67



Fort Hays Kansas State College Enrollment

Distribution By Retion . . . . .	69
Northern High Plains . . . . .	71
High Plains Grazing . . . . .	71
Southwestern High Plains . . . . .	74
Western Corn Belt . . . . .	74
Northern Low Plains . . . . .	74
Eroded Plains . . . . .	78
Summary . . . . .	78
V. FUTURE ENROLLMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION . . . . .	81
Projected college enrollment in the United States . . . . .	81
Method of projection for Kansas and Fort Hays	
Kansas State College Enrollment . . . . .	83
Projected college enrollment for Kansas . . . . .	84
Projected Enrollment for Fort Hays Kansas	
State College . . . . .	85
Summary . . . . .	94
VI. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS . . . . .	95
BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	103

# LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES

FIGURE		PAGE
I	Oil and Gas Area Map . . . . .	11
II	51-County Area and Sub-Areas Map . . . . .	14
TABLES		
I	Crop and Livestock Summary for Kansas . . . . .	9
II	Largest Oil Producing Counties in Kansas	
	During 1951 . . . . .	10
III	Gas Wells Drilled in Hugoton Gas Area, By	
	County . . . . .	12
IV	Crop and Livestock Summary for Northern High	
	Plains . . . . .	16
V	Crop and Livestock Summary for High Plains	
	Grazing . . . . .	18
VI	Crop and Livestock Summary for Southwestern	
	High Plains . . . . .	21
VII	Crop and Livestock Summary for Western Corn	
	Belt . . . . .	24
VIII	Crop and Livestock Summary for Northern Low	
	Plains . . . . .	27
IX	Crop and Livestock Summary for Eroded Plains . .	30
X	Population of the United States and Kansas:	
	1930-52 . . . . .	34
XI	Death Rates by Age: United States or Death-	
	Registration States: 1930-54 (Exclusive of	
	Fetal Deaths) Rates Per 1,000 Estimated Mid-	
	Year Population in Each Specified Group . . .	37

XII	Births and Deaths Per 1,000 Population for Kansas and United States: 1930-48 . . . .	38
XIII	Population of Kansas and of 51-County Area: 1930-1954 . . . . .	40
XIV	Kansas Population, Urban and Rural, Selected Years . . . . .	42
XV	Births and Deaths per 1,000 Population for Kansas and 51-County Area: 1939-54 . . . . .	43
XVI	Inflow or Outflow of Population for 1939-53 Northern High Plains . . . . .	46
XVII	Inflow or Outflow of Population for High Plains Grazing: 1939-53 . . . . .	47
XVIII	Inflow or Outflow of Population for South- western High Plains: 1939-53 . . . . .	48
XIX	Inflow or Outflow of Population for Western Corn Belt: 1939-53 . . . . .	50
XX	Inflow or Outflow of Population for Northern Low Plains: 1939-53 . . . . .	52
XXI	Inflow or Outflow of Population for Eroded Plains: 1939-53 . . . . .	53
XXII	Part I: United States: Comparison of Students Enrolled in Higher Education for the United States and Kansas: 1930-1952 . . . . .	56
	Part II: Kansas: . . . . .	57

## TABLE

## PAGE

XXIII	Comparison of the United States, Kansas, and Fort Hays Kansas State College Enrollments and First-Time Students Enrolled in College: 1947-1954 . . . . .	60
XXIV	Comparison of Fort Hays Kansas State College First-Time Students in College With Previous Year High School Graduates for State: 1948-49 through 1954-55 . . . . .	62
XXV	Comparison of Kansas and Fort Hays Kansas State College Enrollments with 18-24 Year Old Age Group 1930, 1940, and 1950 . . . . .	63
XXVI	Comparison of Fort Hays Kansas State College Enrollment with 18-24 Age Group for 51-County Area 1940 and 1950 . . . . .	65
XXVII	Number of Fort Hays Kansas State College Students per 1,000 Population for 51-County Area: 1930-31 through 1953-54 . . . . .	68
XXVIII	Fort Hays Kansas State College Enrollment; 51-County Area and Kansas Contribution to the College Enrollment: 1929-30 through 1954-55	70
XXIX	Fort Hays Kansas State College Enrollment Distribution for Northern High Plains: 1930-31 through 1954-55 . . . . .	72
XXX	Fort Hays Kansas State College Enrollment Distribution for High Plains Grazing: 1930-31 through 1954-55 . . . . .	73

XXXI	Fort Hays Kansas State College Enrollment	
	Distribution for Southwestern High Plains:	
	1930-31 through 1954-55 . . . . .	75
XXXII	Fort Hays Kansas State College Enrollment	
	Distribution for Western Corn Belt:	
	1930-31 through 1954-55 . . . . .	76
XXXIII	Fort Hays Kansas State College Enrollment	
	Distribution for Northern Low Plains:	
	1930-31 through 1954-55 . . . . .	77
XXXIV	Fort Hays Kansas State College Enrollment	
	Distribution for Eroded Plains: 1930-31	
	through 1954-55 . . . . .	79
XXXV	Projected College Enrollment for the United	
	States (31 per cent attendance) . . . . .	82
XXXVI	Projected Student Supply and Contribution	
	to College Enrollment From Kansas: 1955-1970 .	86
XXXVII	Projected Student Supply and Contribution to	
	Fort Hays Kansas State College Enrollment	
	from 51-County Area: 1955-1970 . . . . .	87
XXXVIII	Projected Student Supply and Contribution to	
	Fort Hays Kansas State College Enrollment	
	from Northern High Plains Region: 1955-1970 .	88
XXXIX	Projected Student Supply and Contribution to	
	Fort Hays Kansas State College Enrollment	
	from High Plains Grazing Region: 1955-1970 .	89

XL	Projected Student Supply and Contribution to Fort Hays Kansas State College Enrollment from Southwestern High Plains Region: 1955-1970 . . . . .	90
XLI	Projected Student Supply and Contribution to Fort Hays Kansas State College Enrollment from Western Corn Belt Region: 1955-1970 . .	91
XLII	Projected Student Supply and Contribution to Fort Hays Kansas State College Enrollment from Northern Low Plains Region: 1955-1970 .	92
XLIII	Projected Student Supply and Contribution to Fort Hays Kansas State College Enrollment from Eroded Plains Region: 1955-1970 . . . .	93
	Projection I	101
	Projection II	101

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

Educators over the nation have been eyeing with increasing concern the rapid growth of the nation's population since the termination of the Second World War. With this rapid growth many problems arise. Among these problems are those which vitally affect the educational institutions of the nation. What will be the magnitude of future enrollments? What will be the future demand as related to the physical plant, student housing, or supply of academic personnel? Further, how will all this affect academic standards? Last but not least, how will all this be financed?

Elementary and secondary schools have been experiencing and will continue to experience the effects of increased enrollments. Institutions of higher education are now at the threshold of rapidly enlarged enrollments.

In a report prepared by Ronald B. Thompson, Ohio State University Registrar, The Impending Tidal Wave of Students, for the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, the prediction was made that for every three students now attending high school, there will be four in 1960; and by 1965 there will be five. College enrollments are expected to be over four million by 1970. Thus, by 1970 there will be two college students for every student now attending. This report also predicted a 44 per cent increase in the college age population (18-21) over 1953 for Kansas by 1970.



From the numerous reports which are being prepared and published concerning enrollments in higher education on national and state levels, one can determine only vaguely and without certainty the probable increase in enrollment for a specific institution since most institutions draw a large part of their students from a small area when compared with the state or national reports.

Population is heavily concentrated in some areas while in other areas the population is sparse. The rate of migration into the various areas differs greatly. The types of economic activities in a given area determine to a great extent the expansion or contraction of the population movement since people move in response to economic stimuli and cannot live apart from the economic organization from which they derive their livelihood. Birth rates vary from area to area. The degree of emphasis on and the opportunity for higher education varies from locality to locality. Thus, from the above-mentioned and numerous other reasons, one cannot assume from a report based on state or national trends that a comparable increase will occur for a specific institution.

Purpose of Study. The primary concern of this study is to determine the trends in population and in the enrollment of Fort Hays Kansas State College from the fifty-one County Area. The future enrollment Fort Hays Kansas State College might expect from the geographical area which is considered by this study as being its potential source of student supply is dependent upon these trends. If the future enrollment can be determined within a



reasonable degree of accuracy, the answers to the other problems that accompany an expanding institution will not seem so illusive.

Brief History of Fort Hays Kansas State College.<sup>1</sup> Fort Hays Kansas State College is located near the city of Hays, Ellis County, in the northwestern part of the Northern Low Plains. The college and its lands was once the Fort Hays Military Reservation which was abandoned in 1889. People of the area as early as 1889, who were faced with the problems of establishing homes and farms on the western plains of Kansas, were seeking ways of making the best use of the land and providing educational opportunities for their children.

House Current Resolution Number Two which was introduced in the Kansas Legislature of 1895 requested an Act of Congress to be passed for the transfer of the Fort Hays Military Reservation to the State of Kansas. The purpose of the Act was to establish a western branch of the Kansas State Agricultural College, a western branch of the Kansas State Normal Institute, and a public park.

Congress passed legislation in 1900 granting the abandoned Fort Hays Military Reservation to the State of Kansas for the purpose of establishing an Experiment Station of the Kansas State Agricultural College, a western branch of the State Normal School, and a public park. The Kansas Legislature accepted this grant in 1901.

In 1914 Congress passed legislation providing for the establishment of a separate school instead of a branch of the State

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<sup>1</sup>Fort Hays Kansas State College Budget, Fiscal Year 1957  
(Unpublished data). pp. 2-3.

Normal School. In 1915 the Kansas Legislature accepted the provisions of the Act of Congress.

In the mandate of the Act of Congress, Kansas is to establish and maintain perpetually the institutions designated by the Act on the land granted to it by the Federal Government. Fort Hays Kansas State College was allocated 4,164 acres. Fort Hays Kansas State College is the only State college in the western two-thirds of the State of Kansas and is the only accredited four-year college in the western half of the State.

On June 1, 1903, this college was opened under the name of the Western Branch of the State Normal School. The school was known as the Western State Normal School in 1906. In 1914 the name of the school was changed to Fort Hays Kansas State Normal School, and in 1915 it became independent of the State Normal School at Emporia. Again in 1922 the name was changed to Kansas State Teacher's College of Hays; and finally in 1931 the name of the institution became Fort Hays Kansas State College, its present name.

The first Bachelor's Degrees were offered in 1911. In 1930 the first Master's Degrees were offered. Thus, from the grant made by the Federal Government, the college has grown from a branch of the State Normal School to an independent Normal School, then to a Teacher's College, and finally to a Liberal Arts College. The enrollment has grown steadily, and the services provided to the people of Western Kansas have increased through the years since the establishment of the college. During the past few years, Fort

Hays Kansas State College has had greater enrollment increases percentage-wise than the other state schools.

Selection of Area. The selection of the fifty-one counties of Kansas which comprise the area of this study was made by two different methods. First, the counties of Kansas which contributed less than an average of five students per year covering the period 1929-30 through 1954-55 were eliminated. Second, the remaining counties which contributed less than .5 per cent of their 16-24 year old age group in 1940 and 1950 were eliminated. Thus, the remaining counties comprise the area with which this study is concerned. Figure II on page 14 outlines this area which represents approximately twenty-eight million acres or 54 per cent of the area of the state.

Organization of Study. Since the dominant economic activity of Kansas is agriculture and the inhabitants of a given area are dependent upon the economic activities of that area, Chapter II presents a general background of the area with the emphasis being placed on agriculture.

An analysis of the population trends of the 51-County Area is made in Chapter III to determine a basis for the future population of the area. Data pertaining to the United States and Kansas population trends is also presented so a comparison can be made to show the difference between the areas.

Chapter IV is devoted to a study of the past enrollment trends in higher educational institutions for the United States, Kansas, and the 51-County Area for the purpose of determining

a basis for the projection of the future enrollment contributions to Fort Hays Kansas State College from the 51-County Area.

The future enrollment contributions of the 51-County Area to Fort Hays Kansas State College is determined in Chapter V from a projection of the student supply (18-24) in Kansas to 1970.

Chapter VI contains the summary and conclusions derived from the study.

## CHAPTER II

### GENERAL BACKGROUND OF AREA

#### I. ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OF KANSAS

Agriculture has been the dominant economic activity of the Kansas economy since the state was first settled. Most of the other economic activities of the state are either directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture. The processing, transportation, and distribution of farm products are directly related to the farm production of the area. Manufacturing, service, and trade are primarily concerned with providing for the demands of agricultural activity. The size and location of the communities reflect this dependence on agricultural demands. As one progresses farther west, this fact becomes more apparent.

The 1950 income data prepared by the Department of Commerce notes that 19.7 per cent of the state's income payments came from agriculture, 15.8 per cent from government payments, 11.6 per cent from manufacturing payrolls, 23.4 per cent from trade and service, and lesser amounts from other sources.<sup>2</sup> It is reasonable to assume that most of the income payments arising out of government payments and out of the service and trade functions were derived from tax payments and services directly related to and dependent on agriculture.

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<sup>2</sup>Survey of Current Business, "State Income Payments in 1950" (United States Department of Commerce, August, 1951), p. 16.

Also, a substantial portion of the income from the manufactured products which made it possible for the payroll payments is indirectly dependent upon the agricultural activity of the state.

The rate of population mobility in Kansas is influenced by the instability of agriculture and the drought cycles. The average annual rainfall for Kansas is 27.5 inches. Since the development of power farming and improved methods of dry-land farming which are extensively used in Kansas, the size of the farms have increased while the number of farms have decreased. In 1930 the Kansas State Board of Agriculture reported a total of 166,042 farms in Kansas while in 1950 the number of farms had decreased to 131,394. This loss of 34,648 farms over the twenty year period represents 21 per cent of the 1930 total (Table 1, page 9). The average size of the farms in 1930 was 282.9 acres. By 1950 the average size of the farms had increased to 370 acres. The increase in the size of farms in the western half of Kansas is even greater.

The value of all crops produced in Kansas for 1952 was \$944,554,000 with wheat being the dominating cash crop. The wheat harvest of 307 million bushels in 1952 was the most ever produced by any state in the history of the nation. The value of the live-stock and poultry produced in the same year was \$571,890,000 which was also an all-time high for the state.<sup>3</sup> Table I on page 9 shows the state summary of selected statistics referring to crops and live-stock production in Kansas.

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<sup>3</sup>Biennial Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1951-52 (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Department, 1953), p. 321.

TABLE I

## CROP AND LIVESTOCK SUMMARY FOR KANSAS

Description	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950
Acres Harvested:					
Wheat	11,773,015	6,595,350	8,857,000	13,416,000	12,280,000
Corn	6,544,478	5,339,126	2,647,000	2,981,000	2,625,000
Oats, Barley Rye	1,983,380	2,367,614	2,757,000	1,432,000	1,256,000
Sorghums	1,760,073	4,321,535	4,108,000	2,877,000	3,022,000
Hay	2,008,487	2,064,822	1,660,000	1,763,000	1,950,000
Alfalfa Seed	44,157	57,600	110,000	178,000	44,000
Sugar Beets	5,300	8,400	10,251	5,200	8,500
Livestock:					
Cattle	2,751,656	2,857,654	2,928,000	4,231,000	3,627,000
Sheep	349,445	451,752	690,000	1,395,000	796,000
Hogs	1,476,251	671,810	1,519,000	1,336,000	1,253,000
Population	1,851,024	1,845,194	1,778,248	1,793,066	1,904,584
Average Size of Farms (Acres)	282.9	275	308.2	344.1	370
Number of Farms	166,042	174,589	156,327	141,298	131,394

\*Source: Selected statistics from the Biennial Reports of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1929-30, 1935-36, 1939-40, 1945-46, 1949-50 (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office) United States Census of Agriculture, "Kansas, Statistics for Counties," 1930, 1935, 1940, 1945, 1950 (Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census: United States Government Printing Office) Vol. 1, Part 13.

\*Since the majority of the tables of this study are assembled from data presented in numerous sources, the author has chosen to present the footnotes in a general fashion where this has occurred as a matter of convenience.



A major economic activity which has been gaining rapidly in Kansas is the oil and gas development. Kansas ranks fifth among the oil producing states of the nation.

TABLE II  
LARGEST OIL PRODUCING COUNTIES  
IN KANSAS DURING 1951

Rank	County	Producing Acreage	Production (Barrels)
1	Larton	25,490	18,956,122
2	Russell	77,450	12,959,076
3	Ellis	43,810	11,694,249
4	Rice	66,190	9,503,159
5	Butler	86,000	7,567,782
6	Rooks	31,140	7,080,170
7	Stafford	44,100	6,236,930

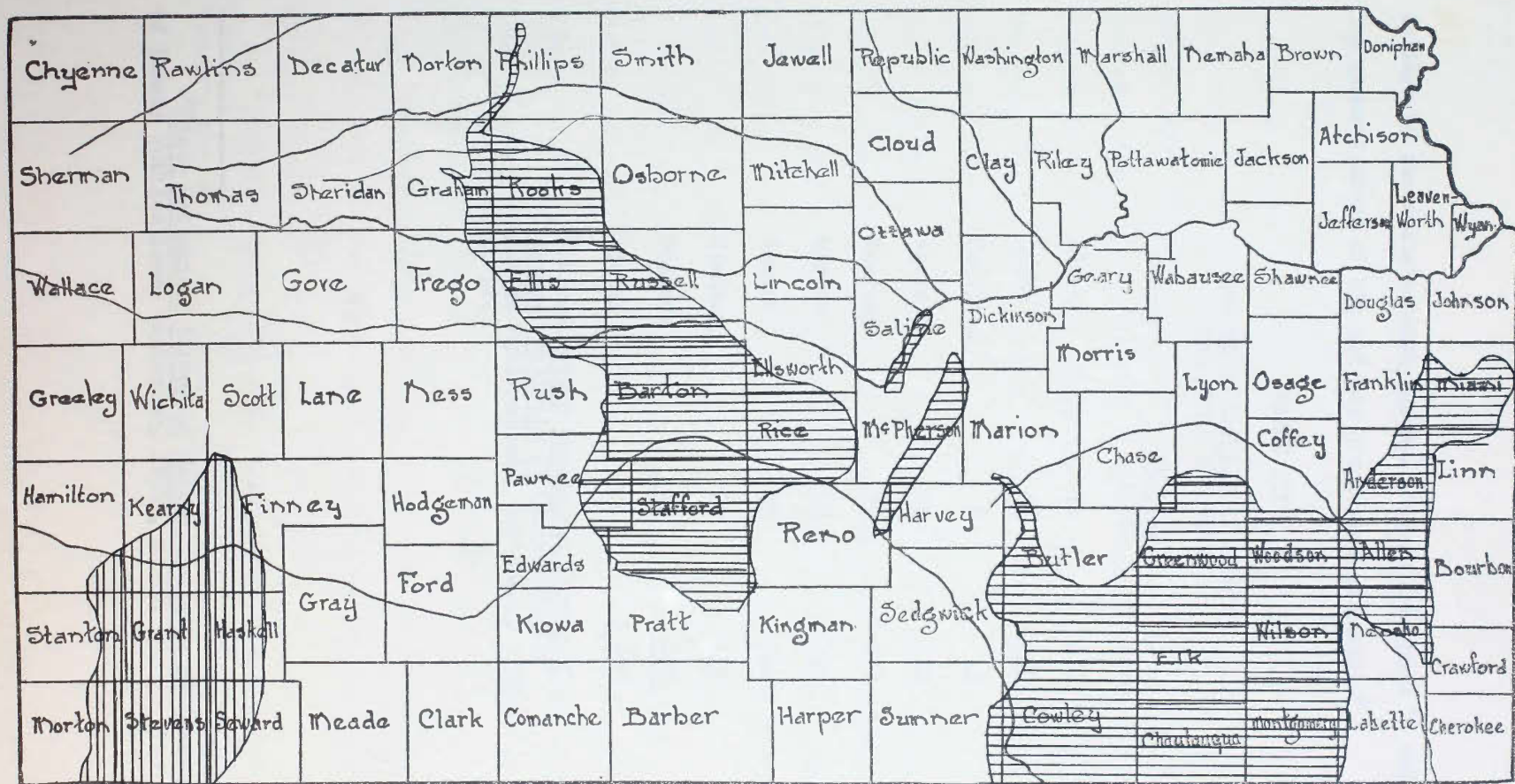
Source: State Geological Survey of Kansas, Bulletin 27 (University of Kansas Publications, September, 1952), p. 11.

Oil production for 1951 totaled 113,912,366 barrels representing a value of \$292,754,781. The major oil producing areas are located in the central part of Kansas. Natural gas production in the same year was 407 billion cubic feet with the Hugoton Area, located in the extreme southwestern corner of the state, accounting for 91 per cent of the state's total production. Natural gas liquids totaled 175.2 million gallons. The crude oil, natural gas, and natural gas liquids produced in Kansas in 1951 contributed 332.7 million



FIGURE I

## OIL AND GAS AREA MAP



Hugoton Gas Area



General Oil Area

Source: State Geological Survey of Kansas, Bulletin 97, (University of Kansas Publications, September, 1952), p. 6.

dollars to the state's total income. Figure I on page 11 outlines the general areas of oil and gas production in Kansas.<sup>4</sup>

TABLE III

GAS WELLS DRILLED IN HUGOTON  
GAS AREA, BY COUNTY

County	During 1951	Total To Date
Finney	71	220
Grant	64	525
Hamilton	8	13
Haskell	29	272
Kearney	55	377
Morton	60	203
Seward	49	214
Stanton	24	177
Stevens	<u>12</u>	<u>692</u>
Total	318	2,693

Source: State Geological Survey of Kansas, Bulletin 97 (University of Kansas Publications, September, 1952), p. 32.

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<sup>4</sup>State Geological Survey of Kansas, Bulletin 97 (University of Kansas Publications, September, 1952), p. 10.

## II. NATURAL REGIONS WITHIN AREA<sup>5</sup>

In order to analyze the various economic activities and the population trends with a view of predicting the future student supply, the 51-County Area of the study has been divided into six smaller regions which are based on the natural features and resources of the regions. Thus, the aim has been to form "natural regions" in which the general topography and activities of the populace are essentially the same. Figure II on page 14 outlines the six regions in the 51-County Area.

Northern High Plains. The Northern High Plains contains 10 counties located in the extreme northwestern part of the state with an area of approximately 6.5 million acres. This region represents about 12 per cent of the area of the state and approximately 23 per cent of the 51-County Area.

The Northern High Plains is a part of the Great High Plains Region. Gently rolling prairie is the general topography of this area. The soil is composed of fine sands and silt of the Colby silt loams deposited by winds in the past. The average annual rainfall is 20.0 inches.

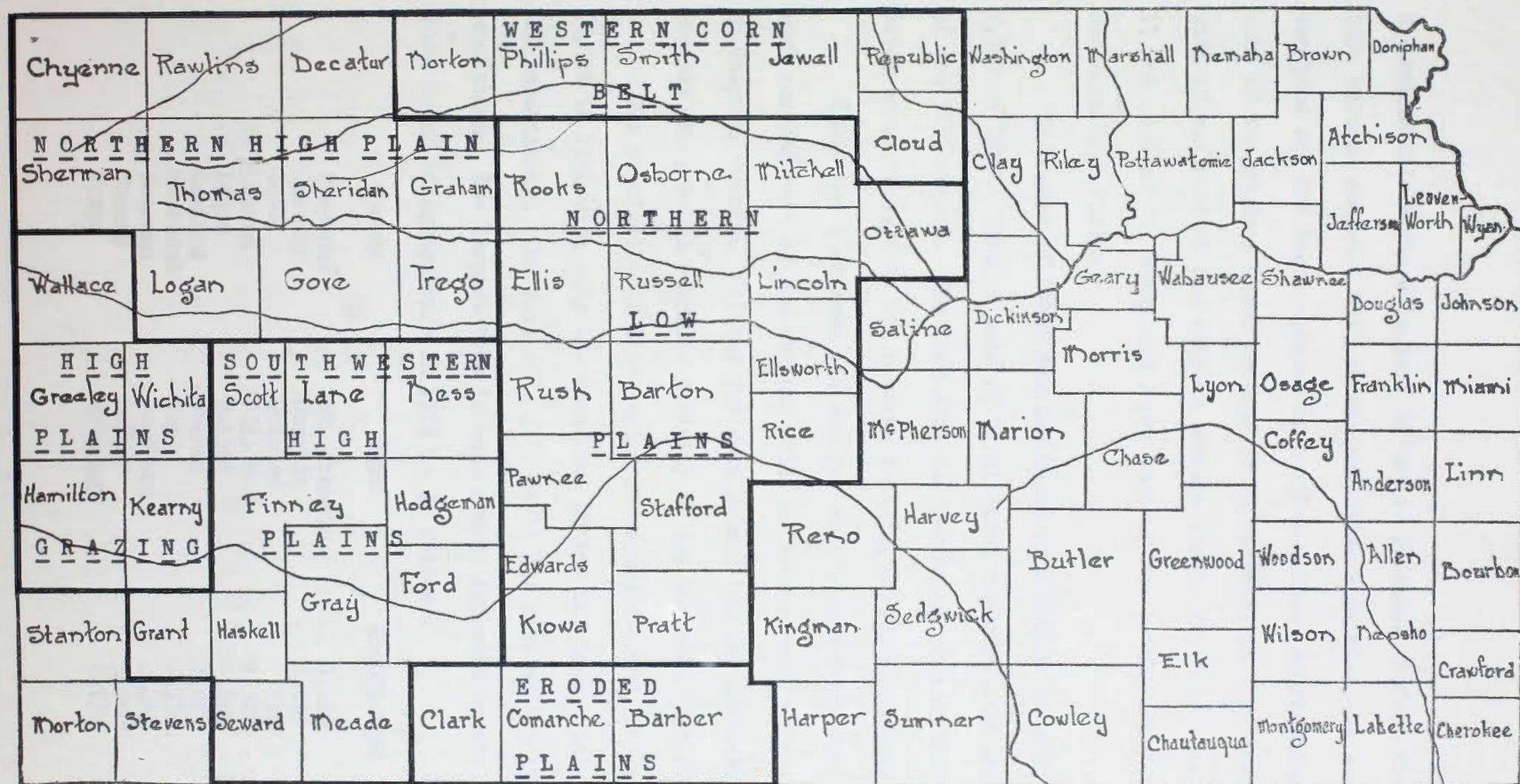
Large-scale farming of wheat is the predominant agricultural activity with livestock raising as a subordinate to crop production.

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<sup>5</sup>Economic Survey of Kansas, (Saint Louis, Missouri: General Commercial Engineering Department, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, May, 1930), pp. 34-64.

FIGURE II

## 51-COUNTY AREA AND SUB-AREAS





A considerable acreage is left in native grasses. Before the 1930's, corn acreage competed with wheat; but since that time, it has steadily declined and has been replaced by sorghum crops. Approximately 12 per cent of the state's wheat acreage is represented in this area along with 12 per cent of the sorghum acreage (Table IV, page 16). About 11 per cent of the sheep and 7 per cent of the cattle are in the Northern High Plains.

The number of farms has decreased from 10,108 in 1930 to 7,307 in 1950. Thus, a loss of 2,801 farms represents 28 per cent of the 1930 number. The farm size has increased from an average of 617.4 acres in 1930 to 857.4 acres in 1950, or 39 per cent over 1930.

There has been some oil and gas activity, especially in the east central part of the region. Oil has been recently discovered in Cheyenne County. Oil and gas development has not influenced greatly the general economic activity of the Northern High Plains.

The population of this region decreased from 55,485 in 1930 to 55,376 in 1954 with only two counties, Thomas and Logan, gaining by 580 inhabitants. The loss of 10,109 is 15 per cent of the 1930 population. The largest town in each county reported by the Kansas State Board of Agriculture in 1952 is as follows:

County	Town	Population
Cheyenne	St. Francis	1,442
Decatur	Oberlin	2,049
Gove	Quinter	746
Graham	Hill City	1,525
Logan	Oakley	2,009
Rawlins	Atwood	1,629
Sheridan	Hoxie	1,132
Sherman	Goodland	4,403
Thomas	Colby	3,660
Trego	Wakeeney	2,252

TABLE IV

## CROP AND LIVESTOCK SUMMARY FOR NORTHERN HIGH PLAINS

Description	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950	% of State
Acres Harvested:						
Wheat	1,773,246	239,273	799,330	1,774,000	1,627,000	11.7
Corn	646,988	958,753	178,800	125,600	65,280	9.8
Oats, Barley, Rye	305,872	262,075	328,687	141,920	50,530	11.1
Sorghums	161,660	660,158	520,420	290,490	295,630	12.0
Hay	36,365	49,526	35,450	26,860	38,550	2.0
Alfalfa Seed	1,721	1,474	1,400	3,720	-	1.9
Sugar Beets						
Livestock:						
Cattle	181,821	211,798	159,970	346,600	308,800	7.4
Sheep	35,900	24,748	37,040	171,900	130,100	10.9
Hogs	107,331	41,701	64,710	66,250	66,870	5.5
Population	65,485	69,057	58,069	51,503	56,468	
Average Size of Farms (Acres)	617.4	602.9	683.7	847.2	857.4	
Number of Farms	10,108	10,360	9,067	7,370	7,307	

Source: Selected statistics from the Biennial Reports of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1929-30, 1935-36, 1939-40, 1945-46, 1949-50 (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office) United States Census of Agriculture, "Kansas, Statistics for Counties," 1930, 1935, 1940, 1945, 1950 (Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census: United States Government Printing Office) Vol. 1, Part 13.

High Plains Grazing. The High Plains Grazing region consists of 5 counties located in the extreme western part of the state with a land area of approximately 3 million acres. This region represents 5 per cent of the state's area and 10 per cent of the 51-County Area.

This region is also a part of the Great High Plains Region with generally level uplands and roughly eroded valleys. Rainfall is light and variable with periods of extended droughts being common. The average annual rainfall is 18.9 inches. The soils are predominantly of the wind-blown type and are adapted to wheat growing if sufficient moisture is available. Improved methods of dry-land farming have helped alleviate to some extent the hazards of crop production. Large areas of native grasses are left for grazing.

Cattle and sheep raising are the important agricultural activities, although large acreages of wheat and sorghums are common in the acreages devoted to crop production. Sheep in this region account for 9 per cent of the state's total and have increased from 9,918 in 1930 to 126,900 in 1956. Cattle production has remained relatively constant and represents about 2 per cent of the state's total (Table V, page 18). Three per cent of the state's wheat acreage and 6 per cent of the sorghum acreage are in the High Plains Grazing region.

Irrigation has been utilized to some extent in the southern part along the Arkansas River, and the sugar beet acreage in Hamilton and Kearney counties represent about 15 per cent of the state's total. Deep-well irrigation is also being developed in this area.

TABLE V

## CROP AND LIVESTOCK SUMMARY FOR HIGH PLAINS GRAZING

Description	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950	% of State
Acres Harvested:						
Wheat	199,676	6,394	152,170	532,000	602,000	2.8
Corn	103,706	100,849	10,300	5,550	2,240	1.1
Oats, Barley, Rye	86,087	46,520	63,970	31,850	6,840	2.4
Sorghums	67,431	243,235	271,990	156,530	196,620	5.8
Hay	18,187	23,741	30,490	12,610	10,440	1.0
Alfalfa Seed	2,658	2,683	2,670	3,240	-	2.6
Sugar Beets	779	1,380	1,169	810	1,470	14.9
Livestock:						
Cattle	66,529	52,566	39,070	92,500	84,700	2.0
Sheep	9,918	25,640	33,650	139,010	126,900	9.1
Hogs	13,691	5,906	11,300	11,260	11,750	0.9
Population	12,226	13,969	10,862	10,203	13,968	
Average Size of Farms (Acres)	778.1	803.1	1,121.7	1,572.3	1,376.7	
Number of Farms	1,973	2,215	1,782	1,368	1,592	

Source: Selected statistics from the Biennial Reports of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1929-30, 1935-36, 1939-40, 1945-46, 1949-50 (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office); United States Census of Agriculture, "Kansas, Statistics for Counties," 1930, 1935, 1940, 1945, 1950 (Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census: United States Government Printing Office) Vol. 1, Part 13.



The number of farms has decreased to 1,592 in 1950 or 20 per cent since 1930. The average size of the farms has increased from 778.1 acres in 1930 to 1,376.7 acres in 1950. This increase of 598.6 acres is 76 per cent over the 1930 average farm size.

All of the counties with the exception of Wallace County gained slightly in population. In 1930 the population of the High Plains Grazing region was 12,116 and 13,221 in 1954. The increase of 996 inhabitants is 8 per cent of the 1930 population. The largest town in each county in 1952 which was reported by the Kansas State Board of Agriculture is as follows:

County	Town	Population
Greeley	Tribune	975
Hamilton	Syracuse	1,673
Kearney	Lakin	1,186
Wallace	Sharon Springs	1,025
Wichita	Leoti	1,206

Southwestern High Plains. Approximately 6 million acres or 11 per cent of the state's land area is in the Southwestern High Plains which includes 11 counties located in the southwestern part of the Wheat Belt. This region also represents about 21 per cent of the 51-County Area.

The region is a link between the Northern High Plains and the High Plains of the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles. The average annual rainfall is 19.4 inches. The soils are composed of the Summit and Colby silt loams in the northern part of the region, while in the

southern part the soils are of the sandy Richfield series. Since the topography is generally level and improved methods of dry-land farming have been developed, large-scale power farming of wheat and sorghums are the predominant agricultural activity supplemented by livestock raising. The production of corn, oats, barley, and rye has steadily declined; and the sorghum crop production has increased, even at the expense of some wheat acreage. Approximately 15 per cent of the state's total acreage in wheat and sorghums is in the Southwestern High Plains.

Sheep production has steadily increased and represents 16 per cent of the state's production while the cattle production is 7 per cent.

There has been an increased development of irrigation in the vicinity of Scott City and Garden City. Improvements in deep-well equipment and a source of cheap fuel from the Hugoton Gas Area has enabled the expansion of the irrigation areas. Irrigation will probably become increasingly important in the future. Sugar beets and alfalfa are important crops in the irrigated areas although in certain areas, farmers are irrigating feed crops and wheat. Sugar beet and alfalfa seed production account for 74 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively, of the state's acreage in these two crops.

The number of farms has decreased from 8,340 in 1930 to 6,326 in 1950 (Table VI, page 21). This is a loss of 2,014 farms or 24 per cent of the 1930 number. The average size of the farms has increased from 659.4 acres in 1930 to 927.2 acres in 1950 which represents an increase of 267.8 acres per farm or a 40 per cent increase.

TABLE VI

## CROP AND LIVESTOCK SUMMARY FOR SOUTHWESTERN HIGH PLAINS

Description	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950	% of State
Acres Harvested:						
Wheat	2,164,279	529,966	1,095,050	2,448,000	1,770,000	15.1
Corn	194,240	218,137	12,900	5,350	1,860	2.1
Oats, Barley, Rye	120,228	72,673	213,040	89,010	12,440	5.2
Sorghums	232,892	867,920	479,960	360,450	505,220	15.2
Hay	49,411	54,616	47,040	26,560	35,260	2.3
Alfalfa Seed	3,106	3,559	4,050	9,950	60	4.8
Sugar Beets	4,171	5,920	7,701	4,000	5,960	73.7
Livestock:						
Cattle	170,656	144,806	119,110	356,600	286,000	6.6
Sheep	11,709	16,735	22,210	345,410	157,930	16.0
Hogs	35,188	13,418	23,580	29,320	26,960	2.1
Population	73,570	73,582	64,934	66,596	79,208	
Average Size of Farms (Acres)	659.4	634.1	745.1	885.5	927.2	
Number of Farms	8,340	8,823	8,051	6,781	6,326	

Source: Selected statistics from the Biennial Reports of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1929-30, 1935-36, 1939-40, 1945-46, 1949-50 (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office) United States Census of Agriculture, "Kansas, Statistics for Counties," 1930, 1935, 1940, 1945, 1950 (Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census: United States Government Printing Office)

Vol. 1, Part 13.

The over-all population increase of 7,100 inhabitants was mainly due to the increases in Finney and Seward counties which was influenced by the Lugoton Gas Area along with increased oil activity and the increased development of irrigation. The population increased from 73,570 in 1930 to 80,670 in 1954. Six of the eleven counties lost in population, but the Southwestern High Plains region as a whole had a 10 per cent population increase over 1930.

Garden City is competing with Dodge City in population growth. The largest town in 1952 for each county is as follows:

County	Town	Population
Finney	Garden City	10,016
Ford	Dodge City	10,577
Grant	Olysses	2,198
Gray	Cimarron	1,237
Haskell	Satanta	862
Hodgeman	Jetmore	1,034
Lane	Dighton	1,553
Meade	Heade	1,725
Ness	Ness City	1,673
Scott	Scott City	3,125
Seward	Liberal	8,375

Western Corn Belt. Approximately 6 per cent of the area of the state or 3 million acres comprises the Western Corn Belt which contains 6 counties located in the extreme north central portion of

the state. This region represents about 11 per cent of the 51-County Area. As one progresses from the east to the west, the topography changes gradually from rolling prairie to the level treeless plains country. The soils are predominantly of the silt loams deposited by wind action and resemble those of the High Plains. In the eastern part of the region, a belt of sandier soils derived from the Dakota sandstones will be found. The average annual rainfall is 25.4 inches.

The Western Corn Belt received its name from the production of corn in years past; but for the past few years, corn production has rapidly decreased although approximately 15 per cent of the state's corn acreage is located in this area. Wheat acreage has increased since the 1930's and represents about 5 per cent of the state's acreage. Another important crop is the alfalfa seed produced in this region along with the hay crops. Approximately 14 per cent of the state's acreage devoted to the production of alfalfa seed is in the Western Corn Belt (Table VII, page 24). Sorghum acreage has increased in the past few years and is 6 per cent of the state's acreage. Acreages devoted to oats, barley, and rye represent 8 per cent of the state's acreage.

As might be expected from the predominance of feed crops in this area, raising of livestock is important. Of the state's hog production, 11 per cent is found in the Western Corn Belt along with 6 per cent of the state's cattle.

Since 1930 the number of farms has decreased from 12,936 to 9,032 in 1950 which is a loss of 3,904 farms or 30 per cent. The average size of the farms in the Western Corn Belt has increased

TABLE VII

## CROP AND LIVESTOCK SUMMARY FOR WESTERN CORN BELT

Description	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950	% of State
Acres Harvested:						
Wheat	508,243	290,417	548,770	705,000	750,000	5.3
Corn	933,863	823,546	253,500	575,600	390,800	14.8
Oats, Barley, Rye	133,515	159,687	236,240	107,240	101,010	7.5
Sorghums	70,345	261,574	345,190	162,530	162,610	6.2
Hay	197,785	190,425	69,000	93,230	148,600	7.4
Alfalfa Seed	15,800	5,732	3,170	34,170		13.6
Sugar Beets						
Livestock	187,922	164,564	158,380	248,000	215,000	5.9
Sheep	9,493	6,325	25,870	32,490	12,190	2.3
Hogs	194,756	66,136	139,930	136,650	151,450	11.0
Population	83,492	82,805	72,293	65,291	65,817	
Average Size of Farms (Acres)	242.4	237.1	274.0	319.1	347.5	
Number of Farms	12,936	13,233	11,597	9,957	9,032	

Source: Selected statistics from the Biennial Reports of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1929-30, 1935-36, 1939-40, 1945-46, 1949-50 (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office); United States Census of Agriculture, "Kansas, Statistics for Counties," 1930, 1935, 1940, 1945, 1950 (Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census: United States Government Printing Office) Vol. 1, Part 13.

from 242.2 acres in 1930 to 347.5 acres in 1950. The increase in size by 105.3 acres represents a 43 per cent increase in acreage.

The population of this region has decreased from 83,492 inhabitants in 1930 to 63,069 in 1954 with all the counties of this group showing a sizable decrease in population. The loss of 20,423 inhabitants for the Western Corn Belt is 24 per cent of the 1930 population. The largest town for each county reported by the State Board of Agriculture for 1952 is as follows:

County	Town	Population
Cloud	Concordia	7,114
Jewell	Mankato	1,559
Norton	Norton	3,331
Phillips	Phillipsburg	2,992
Republic	Belleville	2,858
Smith	Smith Center	2,128

Northern Low Plains. Approximately 28 per cent of the 51-County Area consists of the 16 counties which comprise the Northern Low Plains. This region also represents 15 per cent of the state acreage and is located in the heart of the Wheat Belt which is one of the greatest wheat producing areas of the world. About 25 per cent of the state's wheat acreage is in this group of counties.

The greater part of the region is a level to gently rolling prairie with the exception of a wide belt of loose sandy soils south of the Arkansas River. The valleys are wide and contain rich



alluvial soils. The average annual rainfall is 26.5 inches with the heaviest rainfall occurring during the growing season.

As stated before wheat is the predominant cash crop of the region. Sorghum acreage has increased since 1930 and represents 17 per cent of the state's acreage. Corn acreage has decreased considerably since the 1930's, but approximately 8 per cent of the state's acreage is in this region (Table VIII, page 27).

Irrigated areas along the streams have been developed to some extent, and alfalfa and sugar beets are important crops of the irrigated areas. Twelve per cent of the state's acreage for alfalfa seed and 8 per cent of the sugar beet acreage are located in the Northern Low Plains.

Livestock raising is carried on as a part of the general farm program throughout the Northern Low Plains. Thus, 14 per cent of the state's cattle, 10 per cent of the sheep, and 7 per cent of the hogs are in this region.

The number of farms has decreased from 21,118 in 1930 to 17,064 in 1950. The loss of 4,054 farms during the twenty year period represents 19 per cent of the 1930 number.

Oil and gas development has been active throughout the region, and new fields are continually being discovered. As shown in Table II on page 10, six of the seven leading oil producing counties for 1952 are located in the Northern Low Plains.

The oil and gas activity of the area has definitely contributed to the population gains. Six of the sixteen counties gained in



TABLE VIII

## CROP AND LIVESTOCK SUMMARY FOR NORTHERN LOW PLAINS

Description	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950	% of State
Acres Harvested:						
Wheat	3,414,470	1,913,130	1,693,130	3,344,000	2,943,000	25.1
Corn	627,967	615,240	169,600	106,840	73,200	7.9
Oats, Barley, Rye	110,408	153,802	291,370	142,580	95,700	8.1
Sorghums	249,502	647,769	676,080	511,540	589,930	16.6
Hay	149,613	168,521	102,890	104,760	149,400	7.1
Alfalfa Seed	11,613	10,304	9,170	30,530		11.9
Sugar Beets	318	875	1,381	390	210	8.4
Livestock:						
Cattle	414,219	365,205	408,150	675,500	501,100	14.4
Sheep	41,928	62,798	65,250	158,300	48,120	10.2
Hogs	120,548	48,125	93,970	102,010	81,310	7.1
Population	174,024	179,004	181,615	171,523	177,163	
Average Size of Farms (Acres)	367.4	371.1	393.2	450.1	480.1	
Number of Farms	21,118	21,333	20,230	17,866	17,064	

Source: Selected statistics from the Biennial Reports of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1929-30, 1935-36, 1939-40, 1945-46, 1949-50 (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office) United States Census of Agriculture, "Kansas, Statistics for Counties," 1930, 1935, 1940, 1945, 1950 (Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census: United States Government Printing Office) Vol. 1,

population with Barton county contributing 14,200, the greatest increase. Ellis, Pawnee, Rice, Rooks, and Russell counties are the other counties of the group that had population increases over 1930. The population increased from 174,024 in 1930 to 180,712 in 1954. This represents a 4 per cent increase for the region. The largest town for each county in the Northern Low Plains as reported in 1952 by the Kansas State Board of Agriculture is as follows:

County	Town	Population
Barton	Great Bend	14,447
Edwards	Kinsley	2,509
Ellis	Hays	9,126
Ellsworth	Ellsworth	2,340
Kiowa	Greensburg	1,678
Lincoln	Lincoln	1,866
Mitchell	Beloit	4,091
Osborne	Osborne	2,051
Ottawa	Minneapolis	1,839
Pawnee	Larned	4,718
Pratt	Pratt	7,291
Rice	Lyons	4,816
Rooks	Plainville	2,201
Rush	LaCrosse	1,697
Russell	Russell	6,558
Stafford	Stafford	2,010

Eroded Plains. Barber, Clar, and Comanche counties located in the extreme south central portion of the state with an area of approximately 2 million acres comprise the Eroded Plains. The name is derived from the rough and relatively recent eroded lands which cover a large part of the area. Thus, this feature produces a marked effect upon the economic activities of the area which is used predominantly for grazing; although much land is suitable for crop growing. The Eroded Plains is approximately 4 per cent of the state's acreage and 7 per cent of the 51-County Area.

Livestock raising is the chief activity of the area with considerable acreages suitable for crop raising planted in wheat and sorghums. Cattle production represents about 4 per cent of the state's number although since 1930 the number of sheep has increased. Approximately 3 per cent of the state's wheat acreage and 4 per cent of the sorghum acreage is in the Eroded Plains region.

In 1930 the average farm size was 827.6 acres, and by 1950 the average size had increased to 1,107.3 acres. The increase of 279.7 acres per farm is 34 per cent of the 1930 average (Table IX, page 30). The number of farms has decreased from 2,136 in 1930 to 1,733 in 1950. This decrease represents 19 per cent of the 1930 number.

Valuable deposits of gypsum are located in the Eroded Plains which is the largest gypsum mining district in the state. A gypsum mill is located in Medicine Lodge. There has been some oil and gas discoveries in this area also.

TABLE IX

## CROP AND LIVESTOCK SUMMARY FOR ERODED PLAINS

Description	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950	% of State
Acres Harvested:						
Wheat	423,045	315,057	121,900	453,000	358,000	3.2
Corn	62,056	25,000	15,000	2,850	2,030	0.5
Oats, Barley, Rye	10,435	22,605	48,440	21,430	5,620	1.1
Sorghums	91,860	139,850	174,530	113,590	102,040	3.9
Hay	15,401	9,313	16,570	10,500	12,680	0.7
Alfalfa Seed	120	237	1,670	2,780		1.1
Sugar Beets		105				0.3
Livestock:						
Cattle	123,874	109,930	122,160	179,500	151,600	4.2
Sheep	7,064	1,837	21,460	20,580	5,940	1.5
Hogs	15,618	6,743	12,420	11,730	8,420	0.9
Population	19,539	18,862	17,637	14,580	16,404	
Average Size of Farms (Acres)	827.6	820.1	872.5	1,122	1,107.3	
Number of Farms	2,136	2,292	2,230	1,749	1,733	

Source: Selected statistics from the Biennial Reports of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1929-30, 1935-36, 1939-40, 1945-46, 1949-50 (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office) United States Census of Agriculture, "Kansas, Statistics for Counties," 1930, 1935, 1940, 1945, 1950 (Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census: United States Government Printing Office) Vol. 1

All three of the counties decreased in population from 19,539 in 1930 to 15,940 in 1954. The loss of 3,599 inhabitants for this area represents 18 per cent of the 1930 population. The largest town in each county as reported by the Kansas State Board of Agriculture for 1952 is as follows:

County	Town	Population
Barber	Medicine Lodge	2,462
Clark	Ashland	1,572
Comanche	Coldwater	1,134

### III. SUMMARY

Agriculture has continued to be the dominant economic activity of Kansas since the state was first settled. Wheat is the major cash crop. Sorghums and alfalfa acreages have increased at the expense of the minor grain crops. Livestock production as a subordinate to crop raising has increased in importance since 1930 giving rise to increased acreages in feed crops in the 51-County Area.

Increased mechanization and continued improvements in power equipment have exerted their influence on the size and number of farms since one man can now tend a greater number of acres. The increased use of power equipment has decreased the number of laborers directly connected with farming pursuits but has increased the number of service trades.

The increased development of the oil and gas industry in Kansas has given rise to a cheap source of fuel, thus influencing the

expansion of irrigated areas and creating another source of income for the land owners of Kansas, especially in the central and southwestern counties of the state.

Since the size of the farms is increasing and the number of farms is decreasing, this has exerted a pressure on the population causing an exodus from the farms to urban areas. In the 51-County Area the size of the towns reflects the absence of industrial development, thus causing a greater exodus of population from the area.

## CHAPTER III

### POPULATION MOVEMENTS OF THE AREA

Since the population of an area determines the supply from which the greater part of the enrollments of an educational institution is drawn, it is necessary to analyze the past population data to determine the trends of the area and to consider these in comparison with the trends of the greater regions, the state and nation.

In Chapter II it was found that the size of the farms in the 51-County Area is increasing while the number of farms is decreasing. Since there has been no significant change in the economic activities of the area, this trend is definitely going to affect the number of inhabitants of the area. Therefore, the economic opportunities for providing a livelihood within the area are contracting.

#### I. POPULATION GROWTH IN THE UNITED STATES AND KANSAS

Since 1890 when the population of Kansas represented 2.3 per cent of the nation's population, Kansas has continued to experience a gradual decline in the rate of growth as compared with the growth of the nation (Table X, page 34). By 1930 the population of Kansas declined to 1.5 per cent of the nation's population. During the depression and the drought years of the 1930's, Kansas experienced a considerable loss of population with the maximum loss occurring in 1942. Only in recent years has Kansas overcome the loss of the



TABLE X

POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES  
AND KANSAS: 1930-52

Year	U.S. Population	% Inc. 1930	Kansas Population	% Inc. 1930	% Living in Kansas
1930	123,076,685		1,851,024		1.5
1932	124,839,982	1.4	1,813,385	-2.0	1.5
1934	126,372,877	2.7	1,836,966	-0.8	1.5
1936	128,051,867	4.0	1,840,749	-0.6	1.4
1938	129,823,200	5.5	1,805,694	-2.4	1.4
1940	131,669,275	7.0	1,778,248	-3.9	1.4
1942	134,407,385	9.2	1,742,271	-5.9	1.3
1944	138,083,449	12.2	1,803,908	-0.6	1.3
1946	143,414,000	16.5	1,784,453	-3.6	1.2
1948	146,114,000	18.7	1,873,843	1.2	1.3
1950	150,697,361	22.4	1,904,584	2.9	1.3
1952	156,981,000	27.5	1,979,996	7.0	1.3

Source: Biennial Surveys of Statistics of Higher Education, 1947-48, 1949-50, 1951-52 (Federal Security Agency, Office of Education); Biennial Reports of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1929-30 through 1951-52 (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office)

1930's. Despite the increase in numbers within Kansas, the percentage of the nation's population living in Kansas has continued to decline, and by 1952 the population of Kansas represented 1.3 per cent of the nation's population (Table X, page 34).

The population of the United States increased by 33,904,315 from 1930 to 1952. Thus, in the 22 year period, the population increased 27.5 per cent. Kansas, on the other hand, had a population increase of 128,972 for the same period, but the increase was only 7 per cent of the 1930 population.

Comparison of Births and Deaths for the United States and Kansas. One of the factors which has exerted its influence on the population increase of the nation has been the steady declining rate of mortality for all age groups. Outstanding medical developments are largely responsible for this decline. By controlling or preventing a large number of diseases that were once common and in many cases fatal, the medical field has changed materially the mortality rates. Infant mortality rates have been lowered by improved medical methods and care of the infants. Table XI on page 37 shows the decline of death rates by age group from 1930 to 1954 for the United States.

Table XII, page 38, which compares the births and deaths of Kansas and the United States from 1930 to 1948, indicates that the rate of births per 1,000 for Kansas does not vary greatly from that of the United States. In 1930 the birth rate per 1,000 for Kansas was 18.4 while in the same year the rate for the United States was 18.9. In 1935 the birth rate for Kansas was 16.8 and for the United States 16.9. In 1948 the gap between the two rates increased to some extent but not appreciably.

Year	Total <sup>2</sup>	Under 1-year	1-4 Years	5-14 Years	15-24 Years	25-34 Years
1930	11.3	69.0	5.6	1.7	3.3	4.7
1931	11.1	64.4	5.3	1.7	3.2	4.5
1932	10.9	61.3	4.6	1.5	2.9	4.2
1933	10.7	61.3	4.7	1.5	2.7	4.1
1934	11.1	66.8	5.1	1.5	2.8	4.1
1935	10.9	60.9	4.4	1.5	2.7	4.0
1936	11.6	62.9	4.4	1.5	2.8	4.0
1937	11.3	61.3	4.2	1.4	2.6	3.9
1938	10.6	58.0	3.8	1.2	2.3	3.4
1939	10.6	53.7	3.2	1.1	2.1	3.2
1940	10.8	54.9	2.9	1.0	2.0	3.1
1941	10.5	52.6	2.8	1.0	2.0	2.9
1942	10.3	48.8	2.4	0.9	2.0	2.8
1943	10.9	44.0	2.6	0.9	2.1	2.8
1944	10.6	44.2	2.3	0.9	2.1	2.7
1945	10.6	42.5	2.0	0.8	2.0	2.7
1946	10.0	46.3	1.8	0.8	1.7	2.3
1947	10.1	34.5	1.6	0.7	1.6	2.1
1948	9.9	35.7	1.6	0.7	1.5	2.0
1949	9.7	35.2	1.5	0.7	1.3	1.8
1950	9.6	33.0	1.4	0.6	1.3	1.8
1951	9.7	32.6	1.4	0.6	1.3	1.8
1952	9.6	32.7	1.4	0.6	1.3	1.7
1953*	9.6	31.7		0.8**	1.2	1.7
1954*	9.2	30.3		0.7**	1.1	1.5

TABLE XI

DEATH RATES BY AGE:<sup>1</sup> UNITED STATES OR DEATH-REGISTRATION  
STATES: 1930-54 (EXCLUSIVE OF FETAL DEATHS) RATES PER 1,000  
ESTIMATED MIDYEAR POPULATION IN EACH SPECIFIED GROUP

35-44 Years	45-54 Years	55-64 Years	65-74 Years	75-84 Years	85 & over
6.8	12.2	24.0	51.4	112.7	228.0
6.7	12.0	23.6	49.9	110.5	222.8
6.3	11.6	23.4	50.0	114.3	233.3
6.2	11.4	23.2	49.0	111.3	222.3
6.2	11.8	23.5	49.4	114.1	224.8
6.2	11.6	23.2	48.7	113.1	224.6
6.5	12.1	24.1	50.8	121.7	242.7
6.2	11.8	23.5	49.0	117.0	227.2
5.6	10.9	22.1	47.1	110.9	212.6
5.3	10.7	22.1	47.2	112.5	223.3
5.2	10.6	22.3	48.0	112.0	235.7
5.0	10.4	21.5	45.7	104.1	216.0
4.8	10.2	21.2	44.6	99.6	207.1
4.8	10.3	21.7	45.9	104.5	223.3
4.6	9.8	20.9	43.7	98.1	205.6
4.6	9.8	20.7	42.6	95.3	201.4
4.2	9.4	20.0	41.2	92.7	201.7
4.1	9.4	20.3	42.1	95.2	208.0
3.9	9.1	19.9	41.2	93.9	205.5
3.7	8.8	19.4	40.6	92.5	199.4
3.6	8.5	19.1	40.7	93.3	202.0
3.5	8.4	18.8	40.5	93.3	184.4
3.4	8.3	18.6	40.0	92.1	186.3
3.3	8.2	18.4	40.2	92.6	184.7
3.1	7.7	17.5	39.2	86.6	175.1

\*Estimated

\*\*Rates for 1-14 years

<sup>1</sup>Excludes deaths among armed forces overseas.<sup>2</sup>Includes deaths for which ages were not stated.

Source: National Office of Vital Statistics, Vital Statistics of the United States, 1950, (1954), Vol. 1, p. 190; Vital Statistics of the United States, 1952, (1955), Vol. 1, p. 42; 1953-54, National Office of Vital Statistics, Monthly Vital Statistics Report, (1955), Vol. 3, No. 13, p. 4.

TABLE XII

BIRTHS AND DEATHS PER 1,000 POPULATION  
FOR KANSAS AND UNITED STATES: 1930-48

Year	Births		Deaths		Difference	
	Kansas	U.S.	Kansas	U.S.	Kansas	U.S.
1930	18.4	18.9	10.6	11.3	7.8	7.6
1931	18.2	18.0	10.3	11.1	7.9	6.9
1932	17.5	17.4	10.8	10.9	6.7	6.5
1933	17.0	16.6	10.8	10.7	6.2	5.9
1934	17.8	17.2	10.9	11.1	6.9	6.1
1935	16.8	16.9	11.0	10.9	5.8	6.0
1936	16.6	16.7	11.8	11.6	4.8	5.1
1937	16.2	17.1	10.5	11.3	5.7	5.8
1938	16.7	17.6	10.3	10.6	6.4	7.0
1939	16.2	17.3	10.2	10.6	6.0	6.7
1940	16.2	17.9	10.5	10.7	5.7	7.2
1941	17.3	18.9	10.5	10.5	6.8	8.4
1942	18.4	20.9	10.4	10.4	8.0	10.5
1943	20.0	21.5	10.5	10.9	9.5	10.6
1944	19.4	20.2	10.3	10.6	9.1	9.6
1945	17.5	19.6	9.7	10.6	7.8	9.3
1946	21.7	23.3	9.9	10.0	11.8	13.3
1947	24.3	25.8	10.2	10.1	14.1	15.7
1948	22.7	24.2	9.9	9.9	12.8	14.3

Source: United States Department of Commerce, Historical Statistics of the United States, 1789-1945, pp. 45-47; Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1951, pp. 61-67; Kansas State Board of Health (unpublished data).

The same observation holds true with the death rate for Kansas and the United States. In 1930 the Kansas death rate per 1,000 was 10.6 while the death rate for the United States was 11.3. The death rate through the remaining years corresponds more closely than does the birth rate. In 1948 the death rate for both Kansas and the United States had decreased to 9.9 per 1,000.

Thus, both the United States and Kansas have experienced approximately the same rate of increase for the births and the same rate of decrease for the deaths. From 1937 through 1938 the birth rate for Kansas per 1,000 lagged behind that of the United States by approximately 1 birth per 1,000.

By comparing the data in Table X on page 34 with the data in Table XII on page 38, there is a clear indication that a net exodus of people from the state occurred through the period. Kansas lagged approximately 20 per cent behind its normal population growth during the 18 year period.

## II. POPULATION GROWTH IN KANSAS AND 51-COUNTY AREA

The State of Kansas had a smaller population from 1931 to 1947 than it had in 1930. During the 1930's and early years of the 1940's, there was a continuous loss of population with the low occurring in 1942. The year 1948 was the first in which Kansas recorded a population greater than the 1930 population. From 1948 to 1954 the increase continued, and in 1954 the increase represented 8 per cent of the 1930 population (Table XIII, page 40).



TABLE XIII

POPULATION OF KANSAS AND OF  
51-COUNTY AREA: 1930-1954

Year	Kansas	% Inc. 1930	51-County Area	% Inc. 1930	% Living in Area
1930	1,851,024		428,336		23.14
1931	1,816,415	-1.9	430,774	.6	23.72
1932	1,813,385	-2.0	435,311	1.6	24.00
1933	1,836,449	- .8	438,614	2.4	23.88
1934	1,836,966	- .8	438,952	2.5	23.90
1935	1,845,194	- .3	437,279	2.1	23.70
1936	1,840,749	- .6	428,138	- .0	23.17
1937	1,823,679	-1.5	422,301	- 1.4	23.16
1938	1,805,694	-2.4	415,337	- 3.0	23.00
1939	1,810,359	-2.2	412,709	- 3.6	22.80
1940	1,778,248	-3.9	405,410	- 5.4	22.80
1941	1,757,196	-5.1	396,655	- 7.4	22.57
1942	1,742,271	-5.9	382,907	-10.6	21.98
1943	1,803,201	-2.6	378,120	-11.7	20.97
1944	1,803,908	- .6	378,021	-11.7	20.96
1945	1,793,066	-3.1	379,696	-11.4	21.18
1946	1,784,453	-3.6	384,147	-10.3	21.53
1947	1,835,011	- .9	388,424	- 9.3	21.17
1948	1,873,843	1.2	397,437	- 7.2	21.21
1949	1,912,445	3.3	405,567	- 5.3	21.21
1950	1,904,584	2.9	409,029	- 4.5	21.48
1951	1,942,060	4.9	405,003	- 5.4	20.85
1952	1,979,996	7.0	407,025	- 5.0	20.56
1953	1,965,112	6.2	408,191	- 4.7	20.77
1954	1,999,457	8.0	408,989	- 4.5	20.46

Source: Biennial Surveys of Statistics of Higher Education, 1947-48, 1949-50, 1951-52 (Federal Security Agency, Office of Education); Biennial Reports of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1929-30 through 1951-52 (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office)



The 51-County Area maintained a population increase above the 1930 population for five years before it began to decline (Table XIII). From 1936 to 1946 the loss of population in the 51-County Area was steady and reached a low of 11.7 per cent of the 1930 population in 1944. From 1945 to the present there has been a gradual increase in population, but the gain has not been sufficient to overcome the 1930 figure.

Between 23 and 24 per cent of the Kansas population was located in the 51-County Area from 1930 to 1938. Since that time there has been a steady decrease in the percentage of the Kansas population living in this Area (Table XIII, page 40). In 1954 only 20.5 per cent of the population of Kansas was located in the 51-County Area.

Sedgwick County, which is not included in the 51-County Area, experienced an increase in population over 1930 by 141,906 inhabitants. Kansas experienced an increase of 148,433 during the same period; therefore, from this fact one cannot expect significant increases for the remaining counties.

In Chapter II it was found that in 1952 there were only 8 cities with a population over 5,000 in the 51-County Area. Table XIV presents the population change from rural to urban for the census years 1930 to 1950 for Kansas. In 1930 the rural population of Kansas represented 61.2 per cent of the population of the state. By 1950 the rural population had decreased to 47.9 per cent. Rural-farm population in 1930 was 37.5 per cent of the Kansas

population while the rural-farm population had decreased to 23.3 per cent by 1950. Rural and urban population in Kansas have practically reversed their positions since 1930. It seems likely that by 1960 the census will show that this situation will have taken place.

TABLE XIV

## KANSAS POPULATION, URBAN AND RURAL, SELECTED YEARS

Year	Total	Urban	% Urban	Rural Nonfarm	% Rural Nonfarm	Rural Farm	% Rural Farm	% Rural
1930	1,880,999	729,834	38.8	446,564	23.7	704,601	37.5	61.2
1940	1,801,028	753,941	41.9	442,309	24.5	604,778	33.6	58.1
1950	1,905,299	993,220	52.1	468,340	24.6	443,739	23.3	47.9

Source: United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Sixteenth Census, 1940, Population, Vol. 11, Part 3, pp. 13-15; 1950 Census of Population, Series PC-12, No. 13, July 5, 1951, p. 1.

Comparison of Births and Deaths for Kansas and the 51-County Area. The birth rate per 1,000 for Kansas has increased from 16.2 in 1939 to 26.8 in 1954. During the 15-year period the birth rate continued to increase by an average of .7 per 1,000 for each succeeding year (Table XV, page 43).

The birth rate per 1,000 for the 51-County Area which covers the same period fluctuated more with a low of 17.1 per 1,000 in 1940 and a high of 26.3 per 1,000 in 1952. The average increase in births for each succeeding year for the 51-County Area was .5 per 1,000.

In comparing the death rate for Kansas and the 51-County Area, there is no significant difference between the two, although

TABLE XV

BIRTHS AND DEATHS PER 1,000 POPULATION FOR  
KANSAS AND 51-COUNTY AREA: 1939-54

Year	Births		Deaths		Difference	
	Kansas	51-County Area	Kansas	51-County Area	Kansas	51-County Area
1939	16.2	17.8	10.2	9.0	6.0	8.8
1940	16.2	17.1	10.5	8.9	5.7	8.1
1941	17.3	17.9	10.5	9.4	6.8	8.5
1942	18.4	19.2	10.4	9.3	8.0	9.9
1943	20.0	20.0	10.5	9.7	9.5	10.3
1944	19.4	20.6	10.3	9.8	9.1	10.8
1945	17.5	18.9	9.7	8.9	7.8	10.0
1946	21.7	21.8	9.9	8.8	11.8	13.0
1947	24.3	25.4	10.2	9.4	14.1	16.0
1948	22.7	25.2	9.9	9.3	12.8	15.9
1949	22.9	25.3	9.8	8.8	13.1	16.5
1950	23.1	24.8	10.0	8.9	13.1	15.9
1951	24.4	26.0	9.8	9.1	14.6	16.9
1952	25.2	26.3	9.9	9.3	15.3	17.0
1953	26.4	25.5	9.8	8.9	16.6	16.6
1954	26.8	24.8	9.6	8.7	17.2	16.1

Source: Kansas State Board of Health (unpublished data)

the death rate for the 51-County Area is slightly lower than that of Kansas. There is also no significant change in the rate of death per 1,000 for the 15-year period.

The natural increase for the 51-County Area is approximately 2 per 1,000 greater than for the state. Thus, this area should be increasing in population at a faster rate than the state; but, by comparing the data in Table XIII on page 40 with that in Table XV, it is noted that the 51-County Area rate of growth is steadily declining when compared with that of the state. Therefore, there is also a clear indication that there is a net exodus of inhabitants from the Area, and this is at a rate greater than the exodus from the state.

### III. POPULATION GROWTH IN NATURAL REGIONS

From the preceding analysis of the population trends in Kansas and the 51-County Area, one will not expect to find a population increase in the area, but rather a loss of population. By dividing the population data, births, and deaths into the 6 natural regions of the area, the regions with the heaviest loss of population for the 15-year period (1939-54) will become more apparent.

Northern High Plains. The population in 1939 of this region (Figure II, page 14), consisting of 10 counties, was 59,630; and in 1954 the population was 55,376. Thus, there was an apparent loss of 4,254 inhabitants during this period.

The births for the same period were 18,697, and the deaths recorded in this period were 6,623. Therefore, there was a natural increase of 12,074 during the period. Instead of an increase in population occurring, there was an outflow of 16,328 inhabitants (Table XVI, page 46). With the exception of 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1949 the region had a net exodus of inhabitants, and the inflow for these years was small. An average of 1,633 inhabitants per county left the region during the 15-year period.

High Plains Grazing. This region (Figure II, page 14), consisting of 5 counties, recorded a population of 11,141 in 1939. By 1954 the population had increased to 13,222. During the period there were 4,875 births and 1,433 deaths (Table XVII, page 47) and 1,433 deaths leaving a natural increase of 3,442. But the High Plains Grazing region had an indicated outflow of 1,361 inhabitants during the 15-year period instead of an increase in population. Thus, the average loss for each of the 5 counties during the period was 272 inhabitants. There was a net inflow of population for the region from 1945 through 1949 of 2,511 persons.

Southwestern High Plains. The 11 counties of this region recorded a population of 67,464 in 1939 and 80,670 in 1954 (Figure II, page 14). This represents an increase of 13,206 inhabitants during the 15-year period.

The births were 27,513 and the deaths were 8,913 leaving a natural increase of 18,600. In computing the inflow or outflow for this region (Table XVIII, page 48) there was an exodus of 5,394 or

TABLE XVI

INFLOW OR OUTFLOW OF POPULATION FOR  
1939-53  
NORTHERN HIGH PLAINS

Year	Population	Births	Deaths	Excess of Births over Deaths	Indicated Inflow or Outflow
1939	59,630	1,049	472	577	- 2,138
1940	58,069	991	415	576	- 2,158
1941	56,487	1,010	488	522	- 2,118
1942	54,891	1,123	435	688	- 2,061
1943	53,518	1,130	455	675	- 1,902
1944	52,291	1,034	409	625	- 1,413
1945	51,503	906	402	504	520
1946	52,527	1,216	429	787	19
1947	53,333	1,388	444	944	338
1948	54,615	1,442	461	981	- 364
1949	55,232	1,443	437	1,006	230
1950	56,468	1,523	404	1,119	- 2,336
1951	55,251	1,502	438	1,064	- 1,314
1952	55,001	1,524	493	1,031	- 870
1953	55,162	<u>1,416</u>	<u>441</u>	<u>975</u>	<u>- 761</u>
Total		18,697	6,623	12,074	- 16,328

Source: Kansas State Board of Health (unpublished data), Biennial Reports of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1939-40 through 1951-52 (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office)

TABLE XVII

INFLOW OR OUTFLOW OF POPULATION FOR  
HIGH PLAINS GRAZING: 1939-53

Year	Population	Births	Deaths	Excess of Births over Deaths	Indicated Inflow or Outflow
1939	11,141	227	112	115	- 394
1940	10,862	240	82	158	- 323
1941	10,697	239	89	150	- 152
1942	10,695	218	94	124	- 421
1943	10,398	264	89	175	- 219
1944	10,354	224	82	142	- 293
1945	10,203	247	105	142	423
1946	10,768	267	103	164	502
1947	11,434	347	100	247	480
1948	12,161	425	90	335	926
1949	13,422	461	95	366	180
1950	13,968	439	90	349	- 765
1951	13,552	448	89	359	- 694
1952	13,217	460	113	347	- 138
1953	13,426	<u>369</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>269</u>	<u>- 473</u>
Total		4,875	1,433	3,442	- 1,361

Source: Kansas State Board of Health (unpublished data), Biennial Reports of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1939-40 through 1951-52 (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office)



TABLE XVIII

INFLOW OR OUTFLOW OF POPULATION FOR  
SOUTHWESTERN HIGH PLAINS: 1939-53

Year	Population	Births	Deaths	Excess of Births over Deaths	Indicated Inflow or Outflow
1939	67,464	1,286	514	772	- 3,302
1940	64,934	1,202	603	599	- 1,347
1941	64,186	1,285	557	728	- 2,062
1942	62,852	1,298	533	765	1,317
1943	64,934	1,562	640	922	- 1,049
1944	64,807	1,605	643	962	827
1945	66,596	1,561	478	1,083	3,431
1946	71,110	1,618	539	1,079	- 265
1947	71,924	2,026	600	1,426	3,004
1948	76,354	2,202	628	1,574	1,921
1949	79,849	2,316	650	1,666	- 2,306
1950	79,209	2,355	652	1,703	- 2,461
1951	78,451	2,402	619	1,783	- 1,105
1952	79,129	2,408	651	1,757	- 115
1953	80,771	<u>2,387</u>	<u>606</u>	<u>1,781</u>	<u>- 1,882</u>
Total		27,513	8,913	18,600	- 5,394

Source: Kansas State Board of Health (unpublished data), Biennial Reports of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1939-40 through 1951-52 (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office)

an average of 490 inhabitants per county. An inflow of inhabitants occurred during 1944, 1945, 1947 and 1948 and accounted for an increase of 9,183 inhabitants.

Western Corn Belt. The 6 counties comprising the Western Corn Belt region (Figure II, page 14) recorded a population of 73,226 in 1939, and, by 1954, the population had decreased to 63,069. Thus, there was an apparent loss of 10,157 inhabitants during the 15-year period.

The births for the same period (Table XIX, page 50) totaled 18,252, and the deaths recorded for the same period totaled 10,946. Therefore, there was a natural population increase of 7,306. When computing the indicated inflow or outflow for the region, it was found that there was a net exodus of 17,463 inhabitants with only the years 1947 and 1949 recording a small inflow of 579 persons. Thus, the average loss per county during the 15-year period was 2,911 inhabitants.

Northern Low Plains. The 16 counties in this region (Figure II, page 14) records a population of 183,775, while in 1954 the population had decreased to 180,712. Thus, there was a small loss of 3,063 inhabitants during the 15-year period.

The total number of births for the period were 57,250, and the number of deaths were 24,293. Therefore, the natural increase for the region was 32,957.

The only years that recorded an inflow into the region were 1943 and 1948. This inflow represented 1,435 inhabitants. The net

TABLE XIX

INFLOW OR OUTFLOW OF POPULATION FOR  
WESTERN CORN BELT: 1939-53

Year	Population	Births	Deaths	Excess of Births over Deaths	Indicated Inflow or Outflow
1939	73,226	1,122	758	364	- 1,297
1940	72,293	1,126	750	376	- 2,796
1941	69,873	1,022	788	234	- 3,547
1942	66,560	1,143	753	390	- 1,747
1943	65,203	1,130	711	419	- 585
1944	65,037	1,222	738	484	- 230
1945	65,291	940	689	251	- 923
1946	64,619	1,218	663	555	- 318
1947	64,856	1,386	737	649	225
1948	65,730	1,392	716	676	- 1,509
1949	64,897	1,282	716	566	354
1950	65,817	1,231	744	487	- 1,152
1951	65,152	1,391	716	675	- 800
1952	65,027	1,330	736	594	- 1,722
1953	63,899	<u>1,317</u>	<u>731</u>	<u>586</u>	<u>- 1,416</u>
Total		18,252	10,946	7,306	- 17,463

Source: Kansas State Board of Health (unpublished data), Biennial Reports of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1939-40 through 1951-52 (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office)

exodus from the region during the 15-year period was 36,020 (Table XX, page 52) or an average of 2,251 inhabitants per county.

Eroded Plains. This region, consisting of 3 counties (Figure II, page 14), had a population of 17,473 in 1939. By 1954 the population had decreased to 15,940 inhabitants, creating an apparent loss of 1,533 persons.

During the 15-year period (Table XXI, page 53) the births recorded were 5,000 and the deaths were 2,193 leaving a natural increase of 2,807. The indicated inflow during the 15-year period occurred in 1939, 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1951 making a total of 1,270. The net exodus for the period was 4,340 or an average of 1,447 inhabitants.

#### IV. SUMMARY

According to the rates of births and deaths for the United States and Kansas, the rate of growth for each should be approximately the same. Kansas has been experiencing a gradual decline in the rate of growth when compared with the United States' rate of growth.

The 51-County Area has a similar record of decline as that of Kansas. Kansas as a whole has overcome the population loss of the depression, but the 51-County Area has not. The percentage of Kansas inhabitants living in the 51-County Area is continuing to decrease, although the indicated natural increase of the Area is at a greater rate than that of Kansas as a whole.

All of the 6 natural regions of the area recorded a net exodus for the period 1939-54 with the Western Corn Belt region having the

TABLE XX

INFLOW OR OUTFLOW OF POPULATION FOR  
NORTHERN LOW PLAINS: 1939-53

Year	Population	Births	Deaths	Excess of Births over Deaths	Indicated Inflow or Outflow
1939	183,775	3,390	1,719	1,671	- 3,831
1940	181,615	3,088	1,619	1,469	- 4,508
1941	178,576	3,230	1,676	1,554	- 8,135
1942	171,995	3,281	1,622	1,659	- 4,808
1943	168,846	3,203	1,606	1,597	335
1944	170,778	3,424	1,688	1,736	- 991
1945	171,523	3,291	1,558	1,733	- 3,504
1946	169,752	3,727	1,532	2,195	- 1,003
1947	170,944	4,324	1,602	2,722	- 1,393
1948	172,273	4,129	1,644	2,485	1,100
1949	175,858	4,406	1,532	2,874	- 1,569
1950	177,163	4,234	1,585	2,649	- 2,986
1951	176,826	4,404	1,653	2,751	- 995
1952	178,582	4,564	1,644	2,920	- 2,675
1953	178,827	<u>4,555</u>	<u>1,613</u>	<u>2,942</u>	<u>- 1,057</u>
Total		57,250	24,293	32,957	- 36,020

Source: Kansas State Board of Health (unpublished data), Biennial Reports of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1939-40 through 1951-52 (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office)

TABLE XXI

INFLOW OR OUTFLOW OF POPULATION FOR  
ERODED PLAINS: 1939-53

Year	Population	Births	Deaths	Excess of Births over Deaths	Indicated Inflow or Outflow
1939	17,473	262	149	113	51
1940	17,637	294	147	147	- 948
1941	16,836	296	149	147	- 1,069
1942	15,914	303	135	168	- 861
1943	15,221	282	149	133	- 600
1944	14,754	279	136	143	- 317
1945	14,580	237	133	104	687
1946	15,371	340	113	227	335
1947	15,933	413	155	258	113
1948	16,304	414	167	247	- 242
1949	16,309	359	149	210	- 115
1950	16,404	377	165	212	- 845
1951	15,771	370	156	214	84
1952	16,069	402	150	252	- 215
1953	16,106	<u>372</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>232</u>	<u>- 398</u>
Total		5,000	2,193	2,807	- 4,340

Source: Kansas State Board of Health (unpublished data), Biennial Reports of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1939-40 through 1951-52 (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office)

greatest average exodus per county. Closely following the Western Corn Belt region in average loss per county is the Northern Low Plains region which is located in the heart of the Wheat Belt and also contains the highest oil producing areas of the state.

For the 15-year period the excess of births over deaths for the 51-County Area totaled 77,186. The net exodus from the area during the same period was 80,906 inhabitants or an average of 1,586 per county.



## CHAPTER IV

### ENROLLMENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

It has been common practice in past years to consider the college-age population to be 18 to 21 years of age. However, the increasing importance of professional, post-graduate training has increased the number of persons over the age of 21 attending college. The military training program for persons who have reached the age of 18 also influences the shift in the college age population.

Although most of the past data has been presented on the basis of the 18-21 age group, this study presents the 18-24 age group as the college age group when such data is available. However, the over-all results are approximately the same.

#### I. UNITED STATES AND KANSAS ENROLLMENTS

There has been a steady increase in the enrollments in higher education for the United States since 1930 with the exception of the period during World War II. The enrollment represented .9 per cent of the nation's population in 1930 (Table XXII, Part I, page 56). The period 1948 through 1950 reflected the influx of the veterans (approximately 1.8 per cent of the population) into higher educational institutions. By 1952 enrollments had dropped to 1.5 per cent of the nation's population. When comparing the enrollments as a percentage of the 18-21 age group, it is noted that in the latter years there was a considerable increase in the percentage, thus reflecting the consensus

TABLE XXII

COMPARISON OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN HIGHER EDUCATION  
FOR THE UNITED STATES AND KANSAS: 1930-1952

## Part I

## UNITED STATES

Year	Population 18-21	Enrolled in* 18-21 Higher % of Education Total	% Inc. over 1930	Enroll. % of Total Pop.	Enrollment % of 18-21 Pop.	First Time in College	% Inc. over 1932	First Time % of Enroll.	High School Graduates Previous Year	First Time % of Graduates
1930	9,033,000	7.3	1,100,737	-	.9	12.2	-	-	-	-
1932	9,128,000	7.3	1,154,117	4.8	.9	12.6	336,997	-	29.2	746,948
1934	9,211,000	7.3	1,055,360	- 4.1	.8	11.5	307,690	- 8.7	29.2	870,922
1936	9,260,000	7.2	1,208,227	9.8	.9	13.1	366,734	8.8	30.4	965,099
1938	9,395,000	7.2	1,350,905	22.7	1.0	14.4	367,983	9.2	27.2	1,067,712
1940	9,753,537	7.4	1,494,203	35.7	1.1	15.3	417,539	23.9	27.9	1,170,777
1942	9,853,000	7.3	1,403,990	27.5	1.0	14.3	379,070	12.5	27.0	1,231,925
1944	9,776,000	7.1	1,155,272	5.0	.8	11.8	314,311	- 6.7	27.2	1,162,284
1946	9,537,000	6.7	1,676,851	52.3	1.2	17.6	474,894	40.9	28.2	1,046,924
1948	9,273,000	6.4	2,616,262	137.7	1.8	28.2	619,232	83.8	23.7	1,189,000
1950	8,805,020	5.8	2,659,021	141.6	1.8	30.2	594,126	76.3	22.3	1,199,770
1952	8,567,000	5.5	2,301,884	109.1	1.5	26.9	529,950	57.3	23.0	1,181,800

\*Full time Students for Regular Session

Source: Biennial Survey of Education in the United States, "Statistics of Higher Education: Faculty, Students, and Degrees" 1949-50 and 1950-52 (United States Department of Health Education and Welfare, Office of Education) Chapter 4, Section I. Kansas State Department of Public Instruction (Unpublished Data)

TABLE XXII

COMPARISON OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN HIGHER EDUCATION  
FOR THE UNITED STATES AND KANSAS: 1930-1952

## Part II

## KANSAS

Year	Population	Enrolled in* Higher Education	% Inc. over 1930	Enroll. % of Total Pop.	First Time in College	First Time % of Enrollment	High School Graduates Previous Year	First Time % of Graduates
1930	1,851,024	21,326	-	1.2				
1932	1,813,385	21,698	1.7	1.2			16,376	
1934	1,836,966	20,263	- 5.0	1.1			18,811	
1936	1,840,749	22,899	7.4	1.2			19,257	
1938	1,805,694	24,550	15.1	1.4			19,781	
1940	1,778,248	27,244	27.8	1.5	9,134	33.5	21,141	43.2
1942	1,742,271	23,200	8.8	1.3	8,107	34.9	21,405	37.9
1944	1,803,908	11,317	-46.9	0.6	3,990	35.3	16,624	24.0
1946	1,784,453	23,612	10.7	1.3	8,106	34.3	16,877	48.0
1948	1,873,843	40,264	88.8	2.2	11,037	27.4	18,573	59.4
1950	1,904,584	39,074	83.2	2.1	9,726	24.9	18,033	53.9
1952	1,979,996	31,134	46.0	1.6	8,956	28.8	18,280	49.0

\*Full time students for Regular Session

Source: Biennial Survey of Education in the United States, "Statistics of Higher Education: Faculty, Students, and Degrees" 1949-50 and 1950-52 (United States Department of Health Education and Welfare, Office of Education) Chapter 4, Section I. Kansas State Department of Public Instruction (Unpublished Data)

that the 18-21 year old age group is no longer a reasonable representation of the source of supply. In 1930 the enrollment represented 12.2 per cent of the 18-21 age group while in 1948, 1950, and 1952 the respective percentages were 28.2, 30.2, and 26.9.

Students Enrolled for the First Time in any College in the United States. The number of students enrolling for the first time in any college has also experienced a gradual increase since 1930 (Table XXII, Part I, page 56). In 1930 there were 336,997 students enrolled for the first time, while in 1952 the first-time students were 529,950, or an increase of 57 per cent over 1930.

When comparing the first-time students as a percentage of the total enrollment, it is noted that there has been a decline since 1930. In 1930 the first-time students represented 29.2 per cent of the total enrollment for the United States and dropped sharply from 28.3 per cent in 1948 to 23 per cent in 1952 (Table XXII, Part I, page 56).

The first-time students in college, expressed as a percentage of the previous years' high school graduation, experienced a decline during the 1930's but seems to have recovered in 1952. The percentage of graduates enrolling for the first time in college in 1932 was 45 per cent and in 1952 was approximately the same rate after a sharp increase following the close of World War II.

Kansas Enrollments in Higher Education. Kansas has also experienced an increase in enrollments in higher education comparable to that of the United States with the percentage of population

enrolled in higher education being slightly higher than the United States' percentages (Table XXII, Part II, page 57). In 1930 the number of students enrolled in higher educational institutions was 21,326 representing 1.2 per cent of the Kansas Population. With the exception of the mid-thirties and the war years, there has been an increase; and by 1952 the number enrolled was 31,134 after a drop from 40,264 in 1948 and 39,074 in 1950. The number of students enrolled in higher education for 1952 represented an increase of 46 per cent over the 1930 number. As a percentage of the Kansas population, the enrollments in higher education for Kansas have increased. In 1952 they represented 1.6 per cent of the population.

Students Enrolled for the First Time in Any College in Kansas.

Data designating the first-time students in higher educational institutions in Kansas was not available until 1940, but from 1940 to 1952 the percentages are similar to the United States'. As a percentage of the college enrollments in Kansas, the first-time students have declined from a high in 1944 of 35.3 per cent to a low of 24.9 per cent in 1950 (Table XXII, Part II, page 57). In 1952 the first-time students represented 28.8 per cent of the college enrollment.

As a percentage of the previous year's high school graduates in Kansas, the first-time students in college have increased from 43.2 per cent in 1940 to 49 per cent in 1952 after a considerable jump during 1948 and 1950 of 59.4 and 53.9 per cent, respectively.

Fall Enrollments. Table XXIII on page 60 compares the fall enrollments in higher education for the United States, Kansas, and Fort Hays Kansas State College for the period 1947 through 1954.



TABLE XXIII

COMPARISON OF THE  
UNITED STATES, KANSAS, AND FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE  
ENROLLMENTS AND FIRST-TIME STUDENTS  
ENROLLED IN COLLEGE: 1947-1954

	Year	Total Enrollment*	First Time in College	First Time % of Total
UNITED STATES	1947	2,338,226	592,846	25.4
	1948	2,408,249	568,768	23.6
	1949	2,456,841	557,856	22.7
	1950	2,296,592	516,836	22.5
	1951	2,116,440	472,025	22.3
	1952	2,148,284	536,879	25.0
	1953	2,250,701	571,533	25.4
	1954	2,499,750	642,420	25.7
KANSAS	1947	37,201	10,952	29.4
	1948	37,217	9,354	25.1
	1949	37,061	9,477	25.6
	1950	32,315	8,984	27.8
	1951	28,258	8,086	28.6
	1952	28,989	9,163	31.6
	1953	30,554	10,226	33.5
	1954	34,130	11,255	33.0
FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE	1947	-	-	-
	1948	976	276	28.3
	1949	1,016	345	34.0
	1950	1,049	339	32.3
	1951	940	325	34.6
	1952	1,107	401	36.2
	1953	1,277	467	36.6
	1954	1,664	557	33.5

\* Full time Students for Fall Enrollment

Source: Fall Enrollments in Higher Educational Institutions (United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Office of Education) 1947-1954

For the United States, the fall enrollment dropped to a low of 2,116,440 in 1951 and has increased to 2,499,750, or by 42,909 persons greater than the previous high in 1948.

Kansas, on the other hand, had a relatively stable fall enrollment of approximately 37,000 for 1947 through 1949 and then dropped to a low of 28,258 in 1951. By 1954 the fall enrollment had increased to 34,130 representing a loss of 3,071 students when compared with the 1947 enrollments.

Although Kansas has recorded a loss in enrollments for the period 1947 to 1954, Fort Hays Kansas State College has experienced a gradual increase in enrollments with the exception of the year 1951.

The number of first-time students enrolled in higher education for Fort Hays Kansas State College has increased from 276 in 1948 to 557 in 1954 or by 102 per cent.

The number of students enrolling for the first time in higher educational institutions has increased at Fort Hays Kansas State College when compared with the number of high school graduates for the previous year for the state (Table XXIV, page 62). In 1948 the first-time students of Fort Hays Kansas State College represented 1.5 per cent of the state's graduates from high school while in 1954 the number of first-time students had increased to 3.1 per cent.

## II. COMPARISON OF KANSAS ENROLLMENTS WITH 18-24 YEAR OLD AGE GROUP

The 18-24 year old age group in Kansas has declined both in number and as a percentage of the Kansas population (Table XXV, page 63).



TABLE XXIV

COMPARISON OF FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE  
 FIRST-TIME STUDENTS IN COLLEGE WITH  
 PREVIOUS YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR STATE:  
 1948-49 through 1954-55

Year	First Time in College	High School Graduates	Percent
1948-49	276	18,573	1.5
1949-50	345	18,284	1.9
1950-51	339	18,033	1.9
1951-52	325	17,811	1.8
1952-53	401	18,280	2.2
1953-54	467	18,484	2.5
1954-55	557	18,186	3.1

Source: Fall Enrollments in Higher Educational Institutions, 1947-54 (United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Office of Education); Kansas State Department of Public Instruction (unpublished data)

TABLE XXV

COMPARISON OF KANSAS AND FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE  
ENROLLMENTS WITH 18-24 YEAR OLD AGE GROUP  
1930, 1940, and 1950

Year	Population	KANSAS		FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE			
		18-24 Age Group	18-24 % of Population	Enrolled in* Higher Education	Enrollment % of 18-24 Age Group	Enrollment	% of 18-24 Age Group
1930	1,851,024	231,925	12.5	21,326	9.2	1,470	.6
1940	1,778,248	212,431	11.9	27,244	12.8	1,992	.9
1950	1,904,584	195,590	10.3	39,074	20.0	1,940	1.0

\*Full time Students for Regular Session

Source: United States Census of Population: 1950 "General Characteristics, Kansas" (United States Department of Commerce: United Government Printing Office) Vol. II, Part 16, Chapter 13, pp. 16-40. Biennial Survey of Education in The United States, "Statistics of Higher Education: Faculty, Students, and Degrees" 1949-50 and 1951-52 (United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Office of Education) Chapter 4, Section I. Fort Hays Kansas State College Bulletins, Vol. XXI, XXVI, and XXXI (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office) Biennial Reports of Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1929-30, 1939-40, and 1949-50 (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office)

In 1930 this age group represented 12.5 per cent of the Kansas population, and in 1950 the age group represented 10.3 per cent of the population of Kansas. When comparing the total Kansas enrollment in higher education with the 18-24 year old age group, the enrollment represented 9.2 per cent of the 1930 number; and in 1940 the percentage of students enrolled in higher education had increased to 12.8 per cent of the 18-24 year old age group. By 1950 it was 20 per cent of the age group.

The Fort Hays Kansas State College enrollment also experienced an increase in percentage of the 18-24 year old age group in Kansas. In 1930 .6 per cent of the Kansas 18-24 year old age group was enrolled at Fort Hays Kansas State College, and in 1950 this percentage increased to 1 per cent.

51-County Area 18-24 Age Group. In Table XXVI on page 65, the 18-24 year old age group is presented by region; and it is found that the age group as a percentage of the population for the regions is comparable with the percentage of the state population (Table XXV, page 63). In 1940 the 18-24 year old age group in Kansas represented 11.9 per cent of the population of the state while the 18-24 year old age group distribution for the 51-County Area in the same year represented 12 per cent of the Area population with the low regional distribution of 11.4 per cent in the Western Corn Belt and the high of 12.3 per cent of the region's population in both the High Plains Grazing Region and the Southwestern High Plains.

TABLE XXVI

COMPARISON OF FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT  
WITH 18-24 AGE GROUP FOR 51-COUNTY AREA  
1940 and 1950

Region	Year	Population	18-24 Age Group	18-24 % of Population	FKHSC Students	Students % of 18-24
Northern High Plains	1940	58,069	6,893	11.9	322	4.8
	1950	56,468	6,185	11.0	275	4.5
High Plains Grazing	1940	10,862	1,338	12.3	49	3.7
	1950	13,968	1,652	11.8	41	2.5
Southwestern High Plains	1940	64,934	8,017	12.3	221	2.8
	1950	79,209	8,798	11.1	182	2.1
Western Corn Belt	1940	72,293	8,238	11.4	252	3.1
	1950	65,817	5,304	8.1	179	3.4
Northern Low Plains	1940	181,615	22,154	12.2	849	3.8
	1950	177,163	17,410	9.8	914	5.3
Eroded Plains	1940	17,637	2,073	11.8	34	1.6
	1950	16,404	1,497	9.1	31	2.1
51-County Area	1940	405,410	48,713	12.0	1,727	3.5
	1950	409,029	40,846	10.0	1,622	4.0

Source: United States Census of Population "General Characteristics, Kansas" 1950 (United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census) Table 42, pp. 16-89. Fort Hays Kansas State College Bulletins, Vol. XXVI and Vo. XXXI (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office)

A similar comparison occurs in 1950 with the same data with the exception that the 18-24 year old age group as a percentage of the population decreased by approximately 2 per cent. In Table XXV, page 63, the 18-24 year old age group represents 10.3 per cent of the population of Kansas; and for the same period in the 51-County Area, it is 10 per cent with the low of 8.1 per cent occurring again in the Western Corn Belt Region and the high of 11.8 occurring again in the High Plains Grazing Region (Table XXVI, page 65).

Fort Hays Kansas State College and 18-24 Age Group. In 1940 3.5 per cent of the 18-24 year old age group in the 51-County Area was enrolled at Fort Hays Kansas State College (Table XXVI, page 65). The Northern High Plains Region contributed the high of 4.8 per cent of its 18-24 year old age group to the enrollment of Fort Hays Kansas State College. The Eroded Plains Region contributed the low of 1.6 per cent of its 18-24 year old age group.

In 1950 the 51-County Area contributed 4 per cent of its 18-24 year old age group to the enrollment at Fort Hays Kansas State College with the Northern Low Plains contributing 5.3 per cent of its 18-24 year old age group which also represents the greatest number contributed. The Eroded Plains was again the lowest contributor with 2.1 per cent of its 18-24 year old age group to the enrollment of Fort Hays Kansas State College.

### III. COMPARISON OF ENROLLMENTS OF FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE WITH REGIONAL POPULATION

Table XXVII on page 68, presents a comparison of the enrollment contribution to Fort Hays Kansas State College from the 51-County Area by regions with the population of the Area from 1930-31 through 1953-54.

The 51-County Area contributed an average of 3.05 students per thousand inhabitants to the enrollment of Fort Hays Kansas State College for the 24 year period which includes the depression years of the 1930's and the war years of the 1940's. It is interesting to note that according to this comparison, there was no significant change in the number of students per thousand inhabitants contributed by this Area following the war years to the enrollment of Fort Hays Kansas State College.

The highest contribution was 4.08 students per thousand for the Area in 1940-41, and in 1953-54 the contribution had not reached this high although the actual number of students enrolled was greater. This reflects the slight increase in actual population numbers in the 51-County Area.

The Northwestern High Plains recorded the largest average contribution of 4.68 students per thousand population for the 24 year period. This region's highest contribution of 6.77 students per thousand population occurred in 1940-41 and by 1953-54 was lagging behind this figure by 1.24 students per thousand population.



TABLE XXVII

NUMBER OF FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE STUDENTS PER 1,000 POPULATION  
FOR 51-COUNTY AREA: 1930-31 THROUGH 1953-54

Year	Northern High Plains	High Plains Grazing	Southwestern High Plains	Western Corn Belt	Northern Low Plains	Eroded Plains	Area Average
1930-31	3.65	1.96	2.11	2.01	4.02	.97	2.45
1931-32	3.60	1.47	2.25	2.18	4.07	1.27	2.47
1932-33	3.21	1.47	1.29	1.79	4.02	1.07	2.14
1933-34	2.47	2.12	1.78	1.14	3.44	1.25	2.03
1934-35	2.83	3.16	2.56	1.48	3.98	2.20	2.70
1935-36	4.03	3.08	2.75	2.66	5.27	2.39	3.36
1936-37	4.10	2.80	3.08	2.50	4.10	2.27	3.14
1937-38	4.40	3.46	3.19	2.61	4.10	1.94	3.28
1938-39	5.79	4.82	3.33	3.10	4.25	1.84	3.86
1939-40	5.90	4.40	3.28	3.44	4.62	1.95	3.93
1940-41	6.77	4.14	3.26	3.29	4.94	2.10	4.08
1941-42	6.59	4.02	2.99	2.85	4.26	2.32	3.84
1942-43	5.19	3.55	2.42	2.61	3.77	1.19	3.12
1943-44	3.70	1.73	1.12	1.50	2.24	.72	1.84
1944-45	4.04	2.61	1.22	1.29	2.24	.68	2.01
1945-46	4.54	2.35	1.20	1.46	3.08	.96	2.27
1946-47	5.14	1.39	1.91	2.49	5.28	1.11	2.89
1947-48	5.21	2.19	2.18	2.28	4.97	1.82	3.11
1948-49	5.11	2.22	2.53	2.72	5.25	1.66	3.25
1949-50	4.98	3.05	2.28	2.76	5.20	1.90	3.36
1950-51	5.68	2.79	2.44	3.05	5.55	1.83	3.56
1951-52	5.05	2.21	2.21	2.92	5.28	1.97	3.27
1952-53	4.73	2.72	2.72	2.78	5.39	2.18	3.42
1953-54	5.53	2.53	3.01	3.07	6.27	2.30	3.79
Region Average	4.68	2.76	2.38	2.42	4.40	1.66	3.05

Source: Fort Hays Kansas State College Bulletins, Vol. XXI through Vol. XLV (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office); Biennial Reports of Kansas State Department of Agriculture, 1929-30 through 1953-54 (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office)



The Northern Low Plains (the largest region) ranks second with an average of 4.40 students per 1,000 population to the enrollment of Fort Hays Kansas State College. The trend for this region reflects an increase in the number of students contributed per 1,000 population since the close of World War II. The Northern Low Plains contributed 6.27 students per 1,000 population to the enrollment of Fort Hays Kansas State College in 1953-54.

The trend for the High Plains Grazing Region since 1946-47 seems to have leveled off to a contribution of approximately 2.5 students per 1,000. From 1934-35 through 1942-43 this region contributed an average of 3.72 students per 1,000 population.

With the exception of the Northern Low Plains Region the regions of the 51-County Area had not reached or gone beyond the high student contribution to the enrollment of Fort Hays Kansas State College during the 1938 to 1942 period.

#### IV. FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT DISTRIBUTION BY REGION

Fort Hays Kansas State College has received an average of 98.5 per cent of its enrollment from Kansas for the period 1929-30 through 1954-55 with the high of 99.5 per cent occurring in 1933-34 and 1943-44 and the low of 96.9 per cent occurring in 1948-49 (Table XXVIII, page 70). The 51-County Area has contributed an average of 91.2 per cent of the enrollment to Fort Hays Kansas State College for the same period with the high of 94.3 per cent occurring in 1944-45 and the low of 88 per cent occurring in 1929-30.

TABLE XXVIII

FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT;  
51-COUNTY AREA AND KANSAS CONTRIBUTION  
TO THE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT: 1929-30 through 1954-55

Year	FHKSC Total	51-County Area	Area Percent	Kansas Total	Kansas Percent
1929-30	1,338	1,177	88.0	1,314	98.2
1930-31	1,470	1,304	88.7	1,444	98.2
1931-32	1,487	1,342	90.3	1,469	98.8
1932-33	1,394	1,253	89.9	1,386	99.4
1933-34	1,158	1,061	91.6	1,152	99.5
1934-35	1,424	1,305	91.6	1,415	99.4
1935-36	1,892	1,732	91.5	1,869	98.8
1936-37	1,660	1,504	90.6	1,628	98.1
1937-38	1,696	1,527	90.0	1,683	99.2
1938-39	1,882	1,674	89.0	1,867	99.2
1939-40	1,922*	1,757	91.4	1,900	98.9
1940-41	1,992	1,823	91.5	1,973	99.1
1941-42	1,745	1,611	92.3	1,732	99.3
1942-43	1,429	1,316	92.1	1,408	98.5
1943-44	826	777	94.1	822	99.5
1944-45	842	794	94.3	836	99.3
1945-46	1,072	975	91.0	1,043	97.3
1946-47	1,656	1,495	90.3	1,620	97.8
1947-48	1,630	1,486	91.2	1,594	97.8
1948-49	1,800	1,609	89.4	1,744	96.9
1949-50	1,795	1,622	90.4	1,744	97.2
1950-51	1,940	1,768	91.1	1,891	97.5
1951-52	1,760	1,636	93.0	1,728	98.2
1952-53	1,804	1,690	93.7	1,777	98.5
1953-54	2,079	1,934	93.0	2,051	98.6
1954-55	2,436	2,258	92.7	2,405	98.7
Average	1,620	1,478	91.2	1,596	98.5

\*Error in totaling county distribution

Source: Fort Hays Kansas State College Bulletins, Vol. XXI through Vol. XLV (Topake, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office)

Thus, the enrollment contribution to Fort Hays Kansas State College has been relatively stable from the state, and the enrollment contribution from the 51-County Area has increased by 1.5 per cent over the first 13 years of the period.

Northern High Plains. In comparing the actual number of students from the Northern High Plains with the total enrollment of Fort Hays Kansas State College, this region reflects a decrease in its share of students contributed (Table XXIX, page 72). As a percentage of the total enrollment of Fort Hays Kansas State College, the Northern High Plains contributed 16.3 per cent in 1930-31, 21.3 per cent in 1941-42, and 14.2 per cent in 1954-55. The five-year average of 15.1 per cent from 1950-51 through 1953-54 was the lowest average although the average of 302 students for the same 5-year period was the second highest contribution of the 25-year period.

High Plains Grazing. The student contribution from the High Plains Grazing Region as a percentage of the total college enrollment has been relatively stable through the 25-year period with the high of 2.5 per cent of the total enrollment of Fort Hays Kansas State College occurring during the 5-year period from 1940-41 through 1944-45 (Table XXX, page 73). The average of 44.2 students contributed to Fort Hays Kansas State College for the 5-year period from 1935-36 through 1939-40 was the maximum average for the 25-year period with the 5-year average of 38.4 students contributed from the High Plains Grazing Region from 1950-51 through 1954-55 ranking second.

TABLE XXIX

FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT DISTRIBUTION  
FOR NORTHERN HIGH PLAINS: 1930-31 THROUGH 1954-55

Year	Enrollment	% Increase over 1930-31	% of Total Enrollment	5-year Average Enrollment	% of Total Average Enrollment
1930-31	239	-	16.3	-	-
1931-32	244	2.1	16.4	-	-
1932-33	222	- 7.1	15.9	-	-
1933-34	173	-27.6	14.9	-	-
1934-35	198	-17.2	13.9	215.2	15.5
1935-36	278	16.3	14.7	-	-
1936-37	272	13.8	16.4	-	-
1937-38	279	16.7	16.5	-	-
1938-39	346	44.8	18.4	-	-
1939-40	352	47.3	18.3	305.4	16.9
1940-41	393	64.4	19.7	-	-
1941-42	372	55.6	21.3	-	-
1942-43	285	19.2	19.9	-	-
1943-44	198	-17.2	24.0	-	-
1944-45	211	-11.7	25.1	291.8	21.4
1945-46	234	- 2.1	21.8	-	-
1946-47	270	13.0	16.3	-	-
1947-48	278	16.3	17.1	-	-
1948-49	279	16.7	15.5	-	-
1949-50	275	15.1	15.3	283.2	17.8
1950-51	321	34.3	16.6	-	-
1951-52	279	16.7	15.9	-	-
1952-53	260	8.8	14.4	-	-
1953-54	305	27.6	14.7	-	-
1954-55	345	44.4	14.2	302.0	15.1

Source: Fort Hays Kansas State College Bulletins, Vol. XXI through Vol. XLV (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office)

TABLE XXX

FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT DISTRIBUTION  
FOR HIGH PLAINS GRAZING: 1930-31 THROUGH 1954-55

Year	Enrollment	% Increase over 1930-31	% of Total Enrollment	5 Year Average Enrollment	% of Total Average Enrollment
1930-31	24		1.6		
1931-32	19	- 20.8	1.3		
1932-33	20	- 16.7	1.4		
1933-34	30	25.0	2.6		
1934-35	45	87.5	3.2	27.6	2.0
1935-36	43	79.2	2.3		
1936-37	35	45.8	2.1		
1937-38	41	70.8	2.4		
1938-39	53	120.8	2.8		
1939-40	49	104.2	2.6	44.2	2.4
1940-41	45	87.5	2.3		
1941-42	43	79.2	2.5		
1942-43	38	58.3	2.7		
1943-44	18	- 25.0	2.2		
1944-45	27	12.5	3.2	34.2	2.5
1945-46	24	-	2.2		
1946-47	15	- 37.5	.9		
1947-48	25	4.2	1.5		
1948-49	27	12.5	1.5		
1949-50	41	70.8	2.3	26.4	1.5
1950-51	39	62.5	2.0		
1951-52	30	25.0	1.7		
1952-53	36	50.0	2.0		
1953-54	34	41.7	1.6		
1954-55	53	120.8	2.2	38.4	1.9

Source: Fort Hays Kansas State College Bulletins, Vol. XXI through Vol. XLV (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office)

Southwestern High Plains. The 5-year period from 1950-51 through 1954-55 recorded the highest average of 218.6 students for the 25-year period which represented 10.9 per cent of the average enrollment of Fort Hays Kansas State College (Table XXXI, page 75). The number of students contributed in 1954-55 from the Southwestern High Plains Region was 269 which was the greatest single-year contribution for the 25-year period. The 5-year period from 1935-36 through 1939-40 represented the maximum average contribution of 12 per cent of the Fort Hays Kansas State College enrollment.

Western Corn Belt. The 5-year period from 1935-36 through 1939-40 recorded the maximum of 220.2 students which represented 12.2 per cent of the Fort Hays Kansas State College enrollment (Table XXXIII, page 76). Although an average of 195 students was contributed from this region during the 5-year period 1950-51 through 1954-55, the contribution represented 9.7 per cent of the average enrollment of Fort Hays Kansas State College for the period which lacks only .9 per cent of being the lowest 5-year average for the 25-year period.

Northern Low Plains. A total of 1,332 students contributed from the Northern Low Plains in 1954-55 represented the maximum contribution for the 25-year period of 54.7 per cent of the enrollment of Fort Hays Kansas State College (Table XXXVIII, page 77). This region has also reflected a steady increase in its contribution to the enrollment both in numbers and as a percentage of the total college enrollment for the past ten years. The 5-year average of



TABLE XXXI

FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT DISTRIBUTION  
FOR SOUTHWESTERN HIGH PLAINS: 1930-31 THROUGH 1954-55

Year	Enrollment	% Increase over 1930-31	% of Total Enrollment	5 Year Average Enrollment	% of Total Average Enrollment
1930-31	155		10.5		
1931-32	167	7.7	11.2		
1932-33	136	-12.3	9.8		
1933-34	133	-14.2	11.5		
1934-35	189	21.9	13.3	156.0	11.3
1935-36	202	30.3	10.7		
1936-37	218	40.6	13.1		
1937-38	223	43.9	13.2		
1938-39	223	43.9	11.9		
1939-40	221	42.6	11.5	217.2	12.0
1940-41	212	36.8	10.6		
1941-42	192	23.9	11.0		
1942-43	152	- 1.9	10.6		
1943-44	73	-52.9	8.8		
1944-45	79	-49.0	9.4	141.6	10.4
1945-46	80	-48.4	7.5		
1946-47	136	-12.3	8.2		
1947-48	157	1.3	9.6		
1948-49	193	24.5	10.7		
1949-50	182	17.4	10.1	149.6	9.4
1950-51	193	24.5	10.0		
1951-52	173	11.6	9.8		
1952-53	215	38.7	11.9		
1953-54	243	56.8	11.7		
1954-55	269	73.5	11.0	218.6	10.9

Source: Fort Hays Kansas State College Bulletins, Vol. XXI through Vol. XLV (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office)



TABLE XXXII

FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT DISTRIBUTION  
FOR WESTERN CORN BELT: 1930-31 THROUGH 1954-55

Year	Enrollment	% Increase over 1930-31	% of Total Enrollment	5-Year Average Enrollment	% of Total Average Enrollment
1930-31	168		11.4		
1931-32	183	8.9	12.3		
1932-33	151	-10.1	10.8		
1933-34	96	-42.9	8.3		
1934-35	125	-25.6	8.8	144.6	10.4
1935-36	220	31.0	11.6		
1936-37	200	19.0	12.1		
1937-38	200	19.0	11.8		
1938-39	229	36.3	12.2		
1939-40	252	50.0	13.1	220.2	12.2
1940-41	238	41.7	12.0		
1941-42	199	18.5	11.4		
1942-43	174	3.6	12.2		
1943-44	98	-41.7	11.9		
1944-45	84	-50.0	10.0	158.6	11.6
1945-46	95	-43.5	8.9		
1946-47	161	- 4.2	9.7		
1947-48	148	-11.9	9.1		
1948-49	179	6.5	9.9		
1949-50	179	6.5	10.0	152.4	9.6
1940-51	201	19.6	10.4		
1951-52	190	13.1	10.8		
1952-53	181	7.7	10.0		
1953-54	194	15.5	9.3		
1954-55	209	24.4	8.6	195.0	9.7

Source: Fort Hays Kansas State College Bulletins, Vol. XXI through Vol. XLV (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office)

TABLE XXXIII

FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT DISTRIBUTION  
FOR NORTHERN LOW PLAINS: 1930-31 THROUGH 1954-55

Year	Enrollment	% Increase over 1930-31	% of Total Enrollment	5-Year Average Enrollment	% of Total Average Enrollment
1930-31	699		47.6		
1931-32	705	.9	47.4		
1932-33	704	.7	50.5		
1933-34	605	-13.4	52.3		
1934-35	706	1.0	49.6	683.8	49.3
1935-36	944	35.1	49.9		
1936-37	736	5.3	44.3		
1937-38	748	7.0	44.1		
1938-39	790	13.0	42.0		
1939-40	849	21.5	44.2	813.4	44.9
1940-41	898	28.5	45.1		
1941-42	761	8.9	43.6		
1942-43	648	- 7.3	45.4		
1943-44	379	-45.8	45.9		
1944-45	383	-45.2	45.5	613.8	44.9
1945-46	528	-24.5	49.3		
1946-47	896	28.2	54.1		
1947-48	849	21.5	52.1		
1948-49	904	29.3	50.2		
1949-50	914	30.8	50.9	818.2	51.4
1950-51	984	40.8	50.7		
1951-52	933	33.5	53.0		
1952-53	963	37.8	53.4		
1953-54	1,121	60.4	53.9		
1954-55	1,332	90.6	54.7	1,063.6	53.1

Source: Fort Hays Kansas State College Bulletins, Vol. XXI Through Vol. XLV (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office)

of 1063.6 students for 1950-51 through 1954-55 was the maximum 5-year average and represented an average of 53.1 per cent which was also the maximum average of the college enrollment for the same period.

Eroded Plains. For the Eroded Plains Region the total contribution of 50 students to the enrollment of Fort Hays Kansas State College in 1954-55 was the maximum contribution for the 25-year period (Table XXXIV, page 79). The 5-year average of 36.6 students contributed to the college enrollment from 1950-51 through 1954-55 ranked second to the 5-year period of 1935-36 through 1939-40 which was an average of 38.2 students from the Eroded Plains Region. As a percentage of the 5-year average enrollment of Fort Hays Kansas State College the 1950-51 through 1954-55 period represented 1.8 per cent as compared with 2.1 per cent--the maximum average--for the 1935-36 through 1939-40 period. For the 25-year period the student contribution by the Eroded Plains Area as a percentage of the total enrollment of Fort Hays Kansas State College is relatively stable ranging from 1.5 per cent to 2.1 per cent of the college enrollment.

## V. SUMMARY

The enrollments in higher educational institutions in Kansas are higher than those of the United States when a comparison is made with the total population, number of first-time student, and first-time students as a percentage of the previous year's high School graduates.

TABLE XXXIV

FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT DISTRIBUTION  
FOR ERODED PLAINS: 1930-31 THROUGH 1954-55

Year	Enrollment	% Increase over 1930-31	% of Total Enrollment	5-Year Average Enrollment	% of Total Average Enrollment
1930-31	19		1.3		
1931-32	24	26.3	1.6		
1932-33	20	5.3	1.4		
1933-34	24	26.3	2.1		
1934-35	42	121.1	3.0	25.8	1.9
1935-36	45	136.8	2.4		
1936-37	43	126.3	2.6		
1937-38	36	89.5	2.1		
1938-39	33	73.7	1.8		
1939-40	34	78.9	1.8	38.2	2.1
1940-41	37	94.7	1.9		
1941-42	39	105.3	2.2		
1942-43	19	-	1.3		
1943-44	11	-42.1	1.3		
1944-45	10	-47.4	1.2	23.2	1.7
1945-46	14	-26.3	1.3		
1946-47	17	-10.5	1.0		
1947-48	29	52.6	1.8		
1948-49	27	42.1	1.5		
1949-50	31	63.2	1.7	23.6	1.5
1950-51	30	57.9	1.6		
1951-52	31	63.2	1.8		
1952-53	35	84.2	1.9		
1953-54	37	88.9	1.8		
1954-55	50	163.2	2.1	36.6	1.8

Source: Fort Hays Kansas State College Bulletins, Vol. XXI through Vol. XLV (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office)

The first-time students enrolling at Fort Hays Kansas State College has consistantly reflected a higher percentage of the total enrollment since 1948 than the same comparison for both Kansas and the United States.

The 18-24 year old age group in Kansas is gradually decreasing as a percentage of the total population, but the number of students enrolling in higher educational institutions is increasing considerably. This trend also holds true for the 51-County Area. A larger percentage of the student supply which is diminishing is enrolling at Fort Hays Kansas State College. In 1930 the 18-24 year old age group represented 12.5 per cent of the population of Kansas. Of this age group .6 per cent was enrolled at Fort Hays Kansas State College. Twenty years later the 18-24 year old age group had declined to 10.3 per cent of the population of Kansas. However, despite the decline, the enrollment of Fort Hays Kansas State College represented 1 per cent of the age group in 1950. From 1935 to 1941 the births in Kansas declined. Thus, this decline will also be reflected in the 18-24 year old age group in later years.

With the exception of the Northern Low Plains, all regions within the 51-County Area have not reached the maximum contribution of students to Fort Hays Kansas State College which was attained during the late 1930's and early 1940's, both as a percentage of the population and as a percentage of the total college enrollment.

## FUTURE ENROLLMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Education in the United States is recognized as a responsibility of each state. The burden of education is not distributed evenly among the states nor do the states exert equal effort in educational opportunities. Thus, extreme variations in the growth of higher education is present among the states.

The increased birth rate over the nation points to the fact that from the increased supply alone, there will be an increase in enrollments for several years to come. In later years as the females of this increasing population reach motherhood, the population increase will become large even with a reduced birth rate. The fact remains that the student supply for the next 15 years is already in existence.

Projected College Enrollment in the United States. In the report, The Impending Tidal Wave of Students, prepared by Ronald B. Thompson, Ohio State University Registrar, for the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, the following college enrollment projection was presented (Table XXXV, page 82). This projection was made assuming a 31 per cent attendance of the 18-21 year old age group. According to this projection the United States will have a decrease in 1955 of 7.1 per cent of the 1950 college enrollment. Through the following years this decrease will be gradually overcome, and by 1960 the enrollment will represent a 2.4 per cent increase over 1950. By 1965 the enrollment will increase to 27.7 per cent, and in 1970 it will be 55.4 per cent greater than the 1950 enrollment.

TABLE XXXV

PROJECTED COLLEGE ENROLLMENT FOR THE  
UNITED STATES (31 PER CENT ATTENDANCE)

1955-1970

Year	Enrollment	% Increase over 1950
1955	2,469,942	- 7.1
1956	2,505,206	- 5.8
1957	2,539,762	- 4.5
1958	2,571,684	- 3.3
1959	2,633,968	- .9
1960	2,723,638	2.4
1961	2,874,678	8.1
1962	3,068,117	15.4
1963	3,193,389	20.1
1964	3,267,530	22.9
1965	3,396,114	27.7
1966	3,617,684	36.1
1967	3,831,145	44.1
1968	4,069,037	53.0
1969	4,145,538	55.9
1970	4,130,957	55.4

Source: On Iowa, Vol. XXX (University of Iowa, Iowa City, January-February, 1955)



Method of Projection for Kansas and Fort Hays Kansas State College Enrollment. Two projections based on the findings of the preceeding chapters pertaining to the Kansas and Fort Hays Kansas State College enrollments in higher education are presented in the following tables.

The 18-24 year old age group for each division--state, 51-County Area, and six regions--was determined by the application of the mortality rates of the 1941 Commissioner's Standard Ordinary Mortality Table to the annual births recorded for each division from 1931 through 1952 and projected to the desired age 18 to 24 years hence. Thus, the gross student supply for each single year from 1955 through 1970 was determined.

Projection I and II were made assuming the following conditions would hold:

1. No catastrophic war, drought, or epidemic.
2. No material change in the economic activity.
3. The migration factor is constant for all age groups and the rate will not change materially.
4. The percentage of 18-24 year olds attending college will remain constant.

Projection I for each division was made with the specific assumptions that the average exodus of population from 1939 through 1953 (15 year period) and the average contribution of the 18-24 year old age group to the enrollment for 1940 and 1950 will continue at the same rate through 1970.

Projection II for each division was made with the specific assumptions that the average exodus of population from 1949 through

1953 (5 year period) and the contribution of the 18-24 year old age group to the enrollment for 1950 will continue at the same rate through 1970.

It is realized that all of the factors governing the increase in enrollment are not taken into consideration in this study, but the basic factors established by an analysis of past data have been reasonably determined.

Projected College Enrollment for Kansas. Assuming an exodus rate of 4.3 per 1,000 of the 18-24 year old age group and a contribution to the enrollment in higher education of 16.4 per cent of the age group, Kansas will have a decrease in enrollment in 1960 of 16.2 per cent of the 1950 enrollment. By 1965 the enrollment will still record a decrease of .8 per cent of the 1950 enrollment. In 1970 the enrollment will increase to 23.4 per cent of the 1950 enrollment (Table XXXVI, page 86, Projection I). Assuming an exodus rate of 5.6 per 1,000 of the 18-24 year old age group and a contribution to the enrollment in higher education of 20 per cent of the age group, Kansas will have an enrollment increase of 2 per cent over the 1950 figure. By 1965 the enrollment increase over 1950 will be 20.9 per cent. In 1970 Kansas will have an increase of 50.2 per cent over the 1950 enrollment (Table XXXVI, page 86, Projection II).

It is interesting to note that according to the report, The Impending Tidal Wave of Students, prepared by Ronald B. Thompson, the 18-21 year old age group in Kansas will number 114,949 in 1960; 143,664 in 1965; and 169,274 in 1970.

The 18-21 year old age group in Kansas as projected in this study will number 116,720 in 1960; 142,631 in 1965; and 176,237 in 1970.

Projected Enrollment for Fort Hays Kansas State College. Table XXXVII on page 87 which presents the two projections of enrollments for Fort Hays Kansas State College is the combined findings of the six regional projections. Projection I records an increase in the Fort Hays Kansas State College enrollment by 1960 of 14 per cent over the 1950 enrollment with the 51-County Area contributing 15 per cent more students than in 1950. By 1965 the enrollment will be 21.1 per cent greater than the 1950 figure with the 51-County Area contributing 23 per cent more students. In 1970 the enrollment of Fort Hays Kansas State College will be 51.6 per cent greater than the 1950 enrollment with the 51-County Area contributing 54 per cent more students than in 1950.

Projection II records an increase of 20.1 per cent in enrollment over 1950 for Fort Hays Kansas State College in 1960 with the 51-County Area contributing 22.5 per cent more students than in 1950. By 1965 the increase over the 1950 enrollment will be 27 per cent with the 51-County Area contributing 29.5 per cent more students than in 1950. In 1970 the enrollment for Fort Hays Kansas State College will be 58.1 per cent greater than in 1950. The 51-County Area will contribute 61.3 per cent more students in 1970 than in 1950.

TABLE XXXVI

PROJECTED STUDENT SUPPLY AND CONTRIBUTION  
TO COLLEGE ENROLLMENT FROM KANSAS: 1955-1970

Year	PROJECTION I			PROJECTION II		
	18-24 Age Group	Enrolled in Higher Educ.	% Increase over 1950	18-24 Age Group	Enrolled in Higher Educ.	% Increase over 1950
1955	206,027	33,788	- 13.5	205,758	41,152	5.3
1956	202,714	33,245	- 14.9	202,449	40,490	3.6
1957	199,901	32,784	- 16.1	199,640	39,928	2.2
1958	198,294	32,520	- 16.8	198,035	39,607	1.4
1959	196,248	32,185	- 17.6	195,992	39,198	.3
1960	199,602	32,735	- 16.2	199,341	39,868	2.0
1961	205,411	33,687	- 13.8	205,143	41,029	5.0
1962	210,936	34,594	- 11.5	210,661	42,132	7.8
1963	212,667	34,877	- 10.7	212,389	42,478	8.7
1964	221,649	36,350	- 7.0	221,359	44,272	13.3
1965	236,449	38,778	- .8	236,140	47,228	20.9
1966	247,931	40,661	4.1	247,608	49,522	26.7
1967	257,264	42,191	8.0	256,928	51,386	31.5
1968	264,730	43,416	11.1	264,384	52,877	35.3
1969	276,432	45,335	16.0	276,071	55,214	41.3
1970	293,897	48,199	23.4	293,513	58,703	50.2

I Average Exodus of 4.3 per 1,000 (1939-53)  
Contribution of 16.4% of 18-24 Age Group (Average of 1940 and 1950)

II Average Exodus of 5.6 per 1,000 (1949-53)  
Contribution of 20% of 18-24 Age Group (1950)

TABLE XXXVII

PROJECTED STUDENT SUPPLY AND CONTRIBUTION  
TO FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT FROM  
51-COUNTY AREA: 1955-1970

Year	PROJECTION I					PROJECTION II				
	18-24 Age Group	Contri- bution to FHKSC	% Inc. over 1950	Total FHKSC Enrollment	% Inc. over 1950	18-24 Age Group	Contri- bution to FHKSC	% Inc. over 1950	Total FHKSC Enrollment	% Inc. over 1950
1955	53,177	2,057	26.8	2,241	24.8	53,105	2,167	33.6	2,350	30.9
1956	52,213	2,022	24.7	2,203	22.7	52,100	2,129	31.3	2,309	28.6
1957	51,406	1,992	22.8	2,170	20.9	51,340	2,101	29.5	2,279	27.0
1958	50,380	1,951	20.3	2,125	18.4	50,315	2,059	26.9	2,233	24.4
1959	49,114	1,903	17.3	2,073	15.5	49,052	2,008	23.8	2,178	21.3
1960	48,421	1,879	15.8	2,047	14.0	48,363	1,987	22.5	2,155	20.1
1961	48,107	1,866	15.0	2,033	13.3	48,046	1,973	21.6	2,140	19.2
1962	48,367	1,873	15.5	2,040	13.6	48,305	1,978	21.9	2,145	19.5
1963	48,047	1,856	14.4	2,022	12.6	47,980	1,959	20.8	2,125	18.4
1964	49,038	1,891	16.6	2,060	14.8	48,965	1,994	22.9	2,163	20.5
1965	51,777	1,995	23.0	2,173	21.1	51,697	2,101	29.5	2,279	27.0
1966	54,527	2,093	29.0	2,280	27.0	54,436	2,200	35.6	2,386	32.9
1967	57,252	2,191	35.1	2,387	33.0	57,146	2,302	41.9	2,497	39.1
1968	59,681	2,281	40.6	2,485	38.4	59,564	2,395	47.7	2,598	44.7
1969	62,239	2,376	46.5	2,588	44.2	62,111	2,489	53.5	2,700	50.4
1970	65,513	2,498	54.0	2,721	51.6	65,377	2,616	61.3	2,837	58.1

I Average 51-County Contribution (1939-53) 1,486 18-24 Age Group, 91.8% of Total  
Average State Contribution (1939-53) 1,591, 96.3% of Total

II Average 51-County Contribution (1949-53) 1,730, 92.2% of Total  
Average State Contribution (1949-53) 1,838, 98.0% of Total



TABLE XXXVIII

PROJECTED STUDENT SUPPLY AND CONTRIBUTION  
TO FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT FROM  
NORTHERN HIGH PLAINS REGION: 1955-1970

Year	PROJECTION I			PROJECTION II		
	18-24 Age Group	Contribution to FHKSC	% Increase over 1950	18-24 Age Group	Contribution to FHKSC	% Increase over 1950
1955	8,061	379	37.8	8,074	363	32.0
1956	7,814	367	33.5	7,783	350	27.3
1957	7,649	360	31.5	7,661	345	25.5
1958	7,478	351	27.6	7,490	337	22.5
1959	7,242	340	23.6	7,254	326	18.5
1960	7,002	329	19.6	7,013	316	14.9
1961	6,927	326	19.5	6,938	312	13.5
1962	6,873	323	17.5	6,884	310	12.7
1963	6,768	318	15.6	6,779	305	10.9
1964	6,925	325	18.2	6,936	312	13.5
1965	7,267	342	24.4	7,279	328	19.3
1966	7,670	360	30.9	7,683	346	25.8
1967	7,968	374	36.0	7,981	359	30.5
1968	8,337	392	42.5	8,350	377	37.1
1969	8,771	412	49.8	8,785	395	43.6
1970	9,343	439	59.6	9,359	421	53.1

I Average Exodus of 19.8 per 1,000 (1939-53)  
Contribution of 4.7% of 18-24 Age Group (Average of 1940 and 1950)

II Average Exodus of 18.2 per 1,000 (1949-53)  
Contribution of 4.5 % of 18-24 Age Group (1950)

TABLE XXXIX

PROJECTED STUDENT SUPPLY AND CONTRIBUTION  
TO FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT FROM  
HIGH PLAINS GRAZING REGION: 1955-1970

Year	PROJECTION I			PROJECTION II		
	18-24 Age Group	Contribution to FHKSC	% Increase over 1950	18-24 Age Group	Contribution to FHKSC	% Increase over 1950
1955	1,583	49	19.5	1,552	39	- 4.9
1956	1,533	48	17.1	1,503	38	- 7.3
1957	1,525	47	14.6	1,496	37	- 9.8
1958	1,528	47	14.6	1,498	37	- 9.8
1959	1,524	47	14.6	1,495	37	- 9.8
1960	1,471	46	12.2	1,442	36	- 12.2
1961	1,489	46	12.2	1,460	37	- 9.8
1962	1,517	47	14.6	1,488	37	- 9.8
1963	1,564	48	17.1	1,533	38	- 7.3
1964	1,602	50	22.0	1,570	39	- 4.9
1965	1,703	53	29.3	1,670	42	2.4
1966	1,877	58	41.5	1,841	46	12.2
1967	2,108	65	58.5	2,067	52	26.8
1968	2,272	70	70.7	2,228	56	36.6
1969	2,484	77	87.8	2,435	61	48.8
1970	2,685	83	102.4	2,633	66	61.0

I Average Exodus of 7.7 per 1,000 (1939-53)  
Contribution of 3.1% of 18-24 Age Group (Average of 1940 and 1950)

II Average Exodus of 27.0 per 1,000 (1949-53)  
Contribution of 2.5% of 18-24 Age Group (1950)



TABLE XL

PROJECTED STUDENT SUPPLY AND CONTRIBUTION  
TO FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT FROM  
SOUTHWESTERN HIGH PLAINS REGION: 1955-1970

PROJECTION I				PROJECTION II		
Year	18-24 Age Group	Contribution to FHKSC	% Increase over 1950	18-24 Age Group	Contribution to FHKSC	% Increase over 1950
1955	10,251	256	40.7	10,099	212	16.5
1956	10,019	250	37.4	9,870	207	13.7
1957	9,771	244	34.1	9,626	202	11.0
1958	9,470	237	30.2	9,330	196	7.7
1959	9,181	230	26.4	9,044	190	4.4
1960	8,898	222	22.0	8,766	184	1.1
1961	8,939	223	22.5	8,806	185	1.6
1962	9,077	227	24.7	8,942	188	3.3
1963	9,259	231	26.9	9,122	192	5.5
1964	9,574	239	31.3	9,431	198	8.8
1965	10,353	259	42.3	10,199	214	17.6
1966	11,223	281	54.4	11,056	232	27.5
1967	12,184	305	67.6	12,003	252	38.5
1968	12,933	323	77.5	12,741	268	47.3
1969	13,687	342	87.9	13,484	283	55.5
1970	14,485	362	98.9	14,270	300	64.8

I Average Exodus of 5 per 1,000 (1939-53)  
Contribution of 2.5% of 18-24 Age Group (Average of 1940 and 1950)

II Average Exodus of 19.8 per 1,000 (1949-53)  
Contribution of 2.1% of 18-24 Age Group (1950)

TABLE XLI

PROJECTED STUDENT SUPPLY AND CONTRIBUTION  
TO FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT FROM  
WESTERN CORN BELT REGION: 1955-1970

## PROJECTION I

## PROJECTION II

Year	18-24 Age Group	Contribution to FHKSC	% Increase over 1950	18-24 Age Group	Contribution to FHKSC	% Increase over 1950
1955	8,069	266	48.6	8,093	275	53.6
1956	7,929	262	46.4	7,952	270	50.8
1957	7,809	258	44.1	7,832	266	48.6
1958	7,709	254	41.9	7,731	263	46.9
1959	7,461	246	37.4	7,483	254	41.9
1960	7,345	242	35.2	7,367	250	39.7
1961	7,236	239	33.5	7,257	247	38.0
1962	7,387	244	36.3	7,409	252	40.8
1963	7,186	237	32.4	7,207	245	36.9
1964	7,276	240	34.1	7,298	248	38.5
1965	7,520	248	38.5	7,542	256	43.0
1966	7,867	260	45.3	7,890	268	49.7
1967	7,996	264	47.5	8,019	273	52.5
1968	8,090	267	49.2	8,114	276	54.2
1969	8,248	272	52.0	8,272	281	57.0
1970	8,609	284	58.7	8,634	294	64.2

I Average Exodus of 17.5 per 1,000 (1939-53)  
Contribution of 3.3% of 18-24 Age Group (Average of 1940 and 1950)

II Average Exodus of 14.6 per 1,000 (1949-53)  
Contribution of 3.4% of 18-24 Age Group (1950)

TABLE XLII

PROJECTED STUDENT SUPPLY AND CONTRIBUTION  
TO FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT FROM  
NORTHERN LOW PLAINS REGION: 1955-1970

Year	PROJECTION I			PROJECTION II		
	18-24 Age Group	Contribution to FHKSC	% Increase over 1950	18-24 Age Group	Contribution to FHKSC	% Increase over 1950
1955	23,271	1,070	17.1	23,346	1,237	35.3
1956	23,020	1,059	15.9	23,095	1,224	33.9
1957	22,787	1,048	14.7	22,861	1,212	32.6
1958	22,330	1,027	12.4	22,402	1,187	29.9
1959	21,850	1,005	10.0	21,921	1,162	27.1
1960	21,850	1,005	10.0	21,921	1,162	27.1
1961	21,679	997	9.1	21,749	1,153	26.1
1962	21,667	997	9.1	21,737	1,152	26.0
1963	21,449	987	8.0	21,519	1,141	24.8
1964	21,768	1,001	9.5	21,838	1,157	26.3
1965	22,929	1,055	15.4	23,003	1,219	33.4
1966	23,774	1,094	19.7	23,851	1,264	36.3
1967	24,828	1,142	24.9	24,909	1,320	44.4
1968	25,793	1,186	29.8	25,876	1,371	50.0
1969	26,708	1,229	34.5	26,795	1,420	55.4
1970	27,897	1,283	40.4	27,988	1,483	62.3

I Average Exodus of 13.7 per 1,000 (1939-53)  
Contribution of 4.6% of 18-24 Age Group (Average of 1940 and 1950)

II Average Exodus of 10.5 per 1,000 (1949-53)  
Contribution of 5.3% of 18-24 Age Group (1950)

TABLE XLIII

PROJECTED STUDENT SUPPLY AND CONTRIBUTION  
TO FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT FROM  
ERODED PLAINS REGION: 1955-1970

Year	PROJECTION I			PROJECTION II		
	18-24 Age Group	Contribution to FHKSC	% Increase over 1950	18-24 Age Group	Contribution to FHKSC	% Increase over 1950
1955	1,942	37	19.4	1,941	41	32.3
1956	1,898	36	16.1	1,897	40	29.0
1957	1,865	35	12.9	1,864	39	25.8
1958	1,865	35	12.9	1,864	39	25.8
1959	1,856	35	12.9	1,855	39	25.8
1960	1,855	35	12.9	1,854	39	25.8
1961	1,837	35	12.9	1,836	39	25.8
1962	1,846	35	12.9	1,845	39	25.8
1963	1,821	35	12.9	1,820	38	22.6
1964	1,893	36	16.1	1,892	40	29.0
1965	2,005	38	22.6	2,004	42	35.5
1966	2,116	40	29.0	2,115	44	41.9
1967	2,168	41	32.3	2,167	46	48.4
1968	2,256	43	38.7	2,255	47	51.6
1969	2,341	44	41.9	2,340	49	58.1
1970	2,494	47	51.6	2,493	52	67.7

I Average Exodus of 18.0 per 1,000 (1939-53)  
Contribution of 1.9% of 18-24 Age Group (Average of 1940 and 1950)

II Average Exodus of 16.5 per 1,000 (1949-53)  
Contribution of 2.1% of 18-24 Age Group (1950)

Summary. The enrollment in higher education for the United States will increase 2.4 per cent in 1960, 27.7 per cent in 1965, and 55.4 per cent in 1970 over the 1950 enrollment figure assuming a 31 per cent attendance of the 18-21 year old age group. For the period 1955 through 1959 there will be a slight decrease in enrollments.

The migration from Kansas has been greater during recent years than in the past which tends to reduce the supply of students although the counteracting trend seems to be an increase in the percentage of the student supply enrolling in higher educational institutions. By 1970 the Kansas enrollment in higher education will increase between 23 and 50 per cent over the 1950 enrollment.

Fort Hays Kansas State College can expect an increase in enrollment between 52 and 58 per cent over the 1950 enrollment by 1970.

## CHAPTER VI

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

An expanding population is a reflection to a certain extent of favorable economic opportunities. However, the population trends in Kansas point to the conclusion that economic opportunities for many years have not been favorable for many Kansas residents. This observation, considered with the changing position of agriculture in the American economy, points up the necessity for developing other segments of the economy in order to accommodate the natural increase of population in Kansas.

When the economic basis for a community fails to expand, economic stagnation with its evils arise. Thus, reduced incomes become common, property values decline, wages fall as jobs become scarce, and the young people find it expedient to leave the community. A stable or declining population which contains a normal excess of births over deaths clearly indicates an exodus of people, ordinarily an exodus of the young people.

These trends cause the writer to view with a conservative attitude the expected increase in future enrollments at Fort Hays Kansas State College from the 51-County Area.

Since Kansas is well adapted to large-scale farming, the improved mechanization of farm equipment has caused an increase in the size of farms, especially in the western half of the state which constitutes the major portion of the area covered in this study. The movement toward large farms has produced a decrease in the number



of farms, thus forcing the inhabitants of the area to seek other means for producing a livelihood. A land area which once supported several families is now occupied by only one family. The number of farms in the state has decreased approximately 21 per cent since 1930 while the average size of the farms has increased 31 per cent. The number of farms in the 51-County Area has decreased approximately 26 per cent during the same period while the average size of the farms has increased 46 per cent.

With the apparent absence of industrial development in the western half of Kansas, inhabitants of the area have no other alternative except to move from the area. In the 51-County Area there were only eight cities with a population over 5,000 inhabitants in 1952. The size of the towns in the area further emphasizes the absence of industrial development. Many of the trade centers of the area are increasing in population, but this trend does not connote a comparable increase for the area since an increasing number of farmers are living in the towns and commuting in much the same fashion as the workers of large industrial area.

For many years there has been a high rate of migration from Kansas. This record further substantiates the fact that Kansas cannot support its natural population increase. Therefore, a higher rate of migration from the state will accompany a higher rate of natural increase of the population. Despite the increase in numbers within Kansas, the percentage of the nation's population living in Kansas has continued to decline; and by 1952 the population living



in Kansas represented 1.3 per cent of the nation's population while the 1930 representation was 1.5 per cent. The population increase over 1930 for the United States represented 27.5 per cent in 1952. The population increase for Kansas, however, represented a 7 per cent increase over the 1930 figure. Both the United States and Kansas have experienced approximately the same rate of increase for births and the same rate of decrease for deaths.

It was found from this study that the 51-County Area record for the 15-year period from 1939 through 1953 indicated an excess of births over deaths of 77,186. However, the net exodus from the area for the same period was 80,906 inhabitants. This area is not only losing its natural increase in population, but in addition it is losing more inhabitants than its natural increase. Although Kansas has overcome its population loss which occurred during the late 1930's, the 51-County Area has not. The percentage of Kansas inhabitants living in the 51-County Area is continuing to decrease, although the indicated natural increase of the area is at a greater rate than that of Kansas as a whole.

The presence of oil and gas production in the 51-County Area does not seem to produce a sufficient effect to overcome the exodus of inhabitants from the area. The Northern Low Plains region located in the heart of the Wheat Belt contains six of the state's highest oil-producing counties. This region which is considered the richest part of the 51-County Area had the distinction of having the second highest rate of exodus of inhabitants per county for the 15-year period 1939 through 1953.

Enrollments in higher educational institutions in the United States have experienced an increase over the 1930 enrollments of approximately 109 per cent in 1952. Kansas institutions for the same period record an increase of approximately 23 per cent over the 1930 enrollments.

The 18-24 year old age group in Kansas is gradually decreasing as a percentage of the total population. However, the number of students enrolling in higher educational institutions is increasing. In 1930 the 18-24 year old age group represented 12.5 per cent of the population of Kansas, and by 1950 the percentage decreased to 10.3 per cent of the population. The number enrolled in higher educational institutions in Kansas in 1930 was 9.2 per cent of the 18-24 year old age group and in 1950 represented 20 per cent of the age group.

Fort Hays Kansas State College has received an average of 91.2 per cent of its students from the 51-County Area over the 26-year period from 1929-30 through 1954-55. This average has changed very little in recent years. For the 15-year period 1939-1953 the average number of students from the area represented 91.8 per cent of the enrollment of Fort Hays Kansas State College. For the period 1949-53 the average contribution was 92.2 per cent of the enrollment. For the purposes of analysis it is assumed that Fort Hays Kansas State College will receive approximately the same percentage of its enrollment from this area in the future.

The over-all figures from the two methods of projection used in this study differ by approximately 6 per cent, although the regional

results from the two projections differ considerably more. The difference is attributed largely to the increase in the percentage of the 18-24 year old age group attending Fort Hays Kansas State College and the decrease in the rate of exodus of population which was used in Projection II for the Northern Low Plains region.

The 18-24 year old age group for each division--state, 51-County Area, and six regions--was determined by the application of the mortality rates of the 1941 Commissioner's Standard Ordinary Mortality Table to the annual births recorded for each division from 1931 through 1952 and projected to the desired age 18 to 24 years hence. Thus, the gross student supply for each single year from 1955 through 1970 was determined.

Projection I and II were made with the assumption that the following conditions would hold:

1. No catastrophic war, drought, or epidemic.
2. No material change in the economic activity.
3. The migration factor is constant for all age groups and the rate will not change materially.
4. The percentage of 18-24 year olds attending college will remain constant.

Projection I for each division was made with the specific assumptions that the average exodus of population from 1939 through 1953 (15 year period) and the average contribution of 18-24 year old age group to the enrollment for 1940 and 1950 will continue at the same rate through 1970.

Projection II for each division was made with the specific assumptions that the average exodus of population from 1949 through 1953 (5 year period) and the contribution of the 18-24 year old age group to the enrollment for 1950 will continue at the same rate through 1970.

Following are the results of Fort Hays Kansas State College enrollments from Projection I and Projection II for 1955, 1960, 1965, and 1970 using the 1950 enrollment of Fort Hays Kansas State College as the base enrollment.

## PROJECTION I

Year	18-24 Age Group	Contribution To FHKSC	% Increase over 1950	Total FHKSC Enrollment	% Increase over 1950
1955	53,177	2,057	26.8	2,241	24.8
1960	48,421	1,879	15.8	2,047	14.0
1965	51,777	1,995	23.0	2,173	21.1
1970	65,513	2,498	54.0	2,721	51.6

## PROJECTION II

Year	18-24 Age Group	Contribution To FHKSC	% Increase over 1950	Total FHKSC Enrollment	% Increase over 1950
1955	53,105	2,167	33.6	2,350	30.9
1960	48,363	1,987	22.5	2,155	20.1
1965	51,697	2,101	29.5	2,279	27.0
1970	65,377	2,616	61.3	2,837	58.1

According to the projections based on the findings of this study, Fort Hays Kansas State College will experience a gradual decrease in enrollments for the next eight years; but will maintain at the same time an increase over the 1950 enrollment. It is believed that the rate of increase in enrollments currently anticipated by popular belief will not occur at Fort Hays Kansas State College.

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